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Dion doesn't impress Canadians, poll finds

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's failure to connect with Canadians is emerging as a critical factor in the federal election and a key challenge for the Liberals entering the second week of the campaign, a new poll suggests.

Election 2008

A week's worth of media exposure coupled with TV ads designed to replace Dion's cool professorial persona with that of a hockey-loving outdoorsman appear to have made little difference, a new Canadian Press Harris-Decima poll suggests.

The Liberal effort may have made Dion even less likable to Canadians. The gap between his popularity and that of Prime Minister Stephen Harper — or even NDP Leader Jack Layton — is wider than ever.

And in an apparent acknowledgment of declining Liberal fortunes, a senior Tory campaign official said the Conservatives will be shifting their focus more on the NDP, and to a lesser extent the Green party, in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

"The challenge for the Liberals appears to rest squarely on Mr. Dion," Harris-Decima president Bruce Anderson said yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Positives and negatives

- At week's end, 52 per cent of respondents said they had a positive feeling about Harper, compared to 34 per cent for Dion. Fifty-five per cent reported negative feelings about Dion, compared to 40 per cent for Harper.

Docs drive home cell warning

SAFETY Ontario's doctors are the latest to weigh in on the risks of chatting on a cellphone while driving, saying it significantly increases the danger of accidents. Mobile phone use affects a driver's cognitive function, visual concentration, speed of processing information and reaction time, says the Ontario Medical Association. The group compiled studies from around the world pointing to the dangers in a bid to get action from the Ontario government. The doctors make several recommendations, including creating strategies to curb cellphone use in vehicles and starting more educational programs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports page 18

Little hope left for Jays

Election 2008 pg 12-13

- Mike Tennant reveals code of campaign ads
- Harper's family plan
- Dion happy with start
- Layton ready for more Harper bashing

Film Festival p. 35-36

Highs and lows of TIFF

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

Terry Fox Run

In legend's footsteps

LUCAS OLENIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cancer survivor Len Wax celebrates after crossing the Terry Fox Run finish line with his daughter, Lisa, and five-year-old grandson Jakob at Wilket Creek Park yesterday morning. **More coverage, pg. 3**

Tourism alive and kicking in Toronto

Toronto's tourism numbers held steady this summer even though the vast majority of large North American cities have seen a drop in visitors, Tourism Toronto says.

While a flagging economy has resulted in a drop in tourists at 23 of 30 cities reporting across the continent, Toronto kept its numbers up, said spokesperson Andrew Weir.

Tourism attracts more than $4 billion in spending in the region and supports nearly 100,000 jobs.

From January to the end of July this year, the occupancy rate for Toronto's 40,000 hotel rooms stood at 67.1 per cent — identical to last year.

Weir credited an aggressive marketing campaign that has expanded beyond the traditional markets of the U.S., Great Britain and Germany.

By year's end, it's expected that some 1.45 million overnight international visitors from outside the U.S. will have visited Toronto in 2008, according to Weir. That's 3.4 per cent more than last year.

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GO bus ridership soars this summer
GO Transit bus ridership to Canada's Wonderland soared this summer, the first time GO ran buses under its own name, with youth discounts and target marketing boosting weekday service by 79 per cent in June and 84 per cent in July over last year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Toronto Dollar losing lustre

Interest in Toronto Dollars, launched by civic-minded citizens in 1998, seems to be waning in the St. Lawrence Market where merchants have supported the dollar for 10 years. Sales were terrible last year, but have picked up, says Richard Hotta, treasurer of Toronto Dollar Inc. It yielded only $4,000 for charity. But no one wants to let the idea die — they are investigating the possibility of replacing the dollars with a card that would debit a smaller percentage of a sale. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INDEX

Canada Pg 8
Election Pg 12, 13
Mike Tennant Pg 12
World Pg 14
Business Pg 16
Sports Pg 18
Going Green Pg 26
Workology Pg 29
Film Festival Pg 35
Entertainment Pg 37
TV Listings Pg 40
Take Five Pg 41
Celebrity Buzz Pg 42

Tomorrow's Metro

Entertainment

Interview with Will Sheff, lead singer of Austin-based indie rock band Okkervil River.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch hundreds of mourners gather at the Winnipeg funeral of Cpl. Mike Seggie, who was killed in Afghanistan last week, at www.metronews.ca/canada
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Play online Crosswords!

Lotteries

Friday, Sept. 12
Super 7 9, 13, 21, 22, 28, 44 & 45. Bonus 10.
Saturday, Sept. 13
Lotto 6/49 5, 18, 20, 26, 37 & 39. Bonus 14.
Sunday, Sept. 14
Ontario Pick 3 881
Ontario Pick 4 8473
Encore 8668589
Daily Keno 5, 9, 16, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 45, 51, 55, 57, 61, 66, 67.

These results are not official.

Cancer survivor inspires

It wasn't the diagnosis of bone cancer at age 18, the chemotherapy, or the operation to replace part of his left thigh bone with a metal rod that made Mark Stewart realize his life would never be the same.

It was when he returned to high school that he fully grasped how his battle with cancer had forever changed him. His hair was gone. He had shed 30 pounds. And he walked with the aid of two canes.

"That's when I realized that, for better or for worse, I'd changed forever."
Mark Stewart

"That's when I realized that, for better or for worse, I'd changed forever," recalled the 31-year-old yesterday at the annual Terry Fox Run in Toronto's Wilket Creek Park — one of about 5,000 runs held nationwide to raise funds for cancer research.

"Events like this make a difference," Stewart, a volunteer speaker for the Terry Fox Foundation, said after addressing the crowd of runners, walkers, cyclists and in-line skaters. Being physically unable to participate, he said sharing his story with those who could was his own personal run.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hurricane Ike loses punch

RAIN The remnants of hurricane Ike had no sting for the GTA yesterday, as the area was spared the drenching storm originally forecast.

David Philips, a senior climatologist for Environment Canada, last night referred to the frontal system as "a one-day wonder" that had mostly exhausted itself by the time it reached southern Ontario.

But rain did force the postponement of last night's planned construction on the westbound Gardiner between the Humber River and Carlaw Avenue.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Big Bike Charity ride reaches Toronto

SAUL PORTO/TOP NEWS

Heart and Stroke Foundation's Big Bike makes it way along Eglinton Avenue and Yonge Street yesterday. Between April and September, the bicycle made for 30 passed through more than 200 communities across nine provinces to raise funds for heart and stroke research.

News in brief

ATTACKED A man working in a Finch Avenue West office near Dufferin Street was attacked by two men and robbed on Friday, police say. The men forced their way in when the victim, 44, an employee of AB Employment Inc., answered the door about 6 p.m. The men looted the office, taking $2,000. They were described as South Asian.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

United Way sets $110M target for 2008

CHARITY When times get tough, Torontonians dig deeper and reach out further to help their friends and neighbours in need, says the head of Canada's largest charity.

At a time of economic uncertainties, United Way Toronto president Frances Lankin says she's confident "this giving city" can meet this year's target of $110 million.

Last year, Toronto donors gave a record-setting $108.1 million.

The 2008 target is going to be a challenge, said Lankin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parents bring boy back to Sick Kids

SECT A nine-month-old baby is being treated for malnutrition at the Hospital for Sick Children, nearly a week after police began searching for the child and his parents, members of an obscure Moorish-American religious sect that doesn't believe in traditional medicine.

The parents, who fled with the child after refusing treatment at the hospital last Wednesday, returned to Sick Kids with the boy yesterday after nearly five days in hiding.

The child's young mom and dad said they returned out of concern for the boy's health, and because of an intense police search.

The parents, who are not married, were arrested after a tense two-hour standoff at the hospital yesterday. They are due to appear in College Park court at 10 a.m. today on charges of obstruction of justice.

The child, who weighs only 11 pounds — far short of the normal 20-odd pounds for a healthy baby — is now in the custody of the Children's Aid Society.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Belief

- The local spiritual leader for the Moorish Science Temple of America — a small religious sect with members in Canada and the United States — said the group preferred to use holistic medicines over conventional treatment

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Woman injured in Brampton rollover

A 42-year-old woman was airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital with serious injuries after an SUV clipped a van on a major Brampton road about 9 a.m. yesterday. The van veered into a centre median of Queen Street East near Airport Road, rolled onto its roof and travelled a short distance before stopping, police said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Look U's saving the hood

Ryerson's plans for music store may boost Yonge area

Here comes the neighbourhood. Ryerson University, long known as the school behind Sam the Record Man, is poised for a breakthrough. Literally.

It's taking over the former retailer's site, securing a long-coveted Yonge Street address.

While the university's new library and student learning centre will occupy only the upper floors of a couple old stores north of the Eaton Centre, it's seen by many as a chance to offer a much-needed boost to a tired section of downtown Toronto's most important street.

"We see this as the next phase of regeneration of the area," says James Robinson, executive director of the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area.

"And it's coming from an institution — a university — you wouldn't really think of as being a leader of one's downtown regeneration," says Robinson, whose organization represents 2,000 business and property owners. "It's a tremendous vision. It's very exciting."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Ryerson University intends to build a library and learning centre at the site of the iconic Sam The Record Man music store.

The Ryerson vision is about much more than just one building, which has yet to even be designed.

At its core is the master plan. Released earlier this year, the 139-page document, prepared by architects and urban planners, is more manifesto than blueprint, focusing on themes of future growth rather than sketches of future buildings.

Its main theme is the inextricable link between Ryerson and the centre of Canada's largest city. While real estate will be purchased if possible, the plan recognizes that, unlike the University of Toronto and York University, the school has virtually nowhere to grow but up. Intensification of the existing campus, it says, offers more than 1 million square feet of added space.

Technically, Ryerson's new photography gallery, which will house the renowned 300,000-item Black Star Collection, is the first to be built under the master plan.

"We see this as the next phase of regeneration of the area. It's a tremendous vision."
James Robinson

But it's the transformation of the old Sam's site, purchased earlier this year as part of a $40-million deal for four properties in and around the campus, that will be most closely scrutinized.

"There is so much riding on this development," says Toronto Coun. Kyle Rae, whose ward includes Ryerson and Yonge Street from Bloor to Queen.

"It's not just about the vibrancy of Yonge Street and Ryerson, it's about maximizing the space and density of downtown."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Deconstructing Sam

• Before Ryerson University puts its own sign on Yonge Street, it has to take care of the one it has inherited.

The iconic marker of the longtime flagship Sam the Record Man store — two large neon discs with matching signs above and below — is about to come down as the university starts work on a new library and learning centre on the site.

But unlike so many used vinyl records before them, relegated to basements and attics, second-hand shops or worse, these will be treated with reverence before being refurbished and put into the new building. as Ryerson promises.

"It's a great honour to be involved in saving such a great sign and making sure it will be back in all of its glory," says David Grose, national sales manager with Gregory Signs of Vaughan, which is doing the work.

Dismantling the larger-than-life sign will be an epic task — up to three weeks, with a tab of $150,000. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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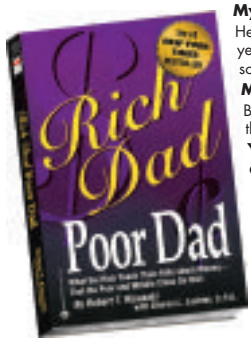

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Blaze guts Burlington townhouse

Careless smoking caused a blaze that gutted a Burlington townhouse complex on Saturday, investigators say. A 16-unit block was evacuated as firefighters battled the 5 a.m. fire on Walker's Line at Upper Middle Road. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Fight for the right to party — safely

The trouble with police clampdowns on rowdy student parties is that the more charges you lay, the more headlines attract the party animals, as they're discovering this month around London's Fanshawe College.

"We're crawling with police in those neighbourhoods but we're also monitoring Facebook for plans for parties that look like they could get out of hand."
Fanshawe president Howard Rundle

"Once you get that reputation for parties —they're now calling it Fun-shawe — the message seems to be 'Come and party,'" said London Police Chief Murray Faulkner. His officers laid a staggering 685 charges in the first two weeks of school for noise and liquor infractions, for bonfires and fighting — and even kicking a cat so hard it had to be put down.

It's September. Welcome back to the Ivory Kegger.

While studies show two-thirds of Canadian students drink responsibly, even the pollsters hold off during the fall whirl from Frosh week to Homecoming, until mid-terms and frost shut most of it down.

"Orientation is an anomaly; we don't even survey students (on drinking) until 30 days after it's over because so many of them seem to buy into the predisposed notion that partying is what you're supposed to do this time of year," says Fran Wdowczyk, executive director of Student Life Education Company, which tracks drinking on 150 Canadian campuses and promotes moderation.

"There are a lot of decent kids living there," said Fanshawe president Howard Rundle, "and sure, they're going to party their first time away from home, but we have to work with them so it doesn't get out of control.

"So we're crawling with police in those neighbourhoods, but we're also monitoring Facebook for plans for parties that look like they could get out of hand," he said, "and we've toughened up our code of conduct to apply to some dangerous behaviours off-campus."

The Fanshawe student union has visited student houses to drop off blue boxes and a free guide to the Perfect Party — perfectly responsible — that warns keggers are not just illegal but also a sloppy waste of good beer.

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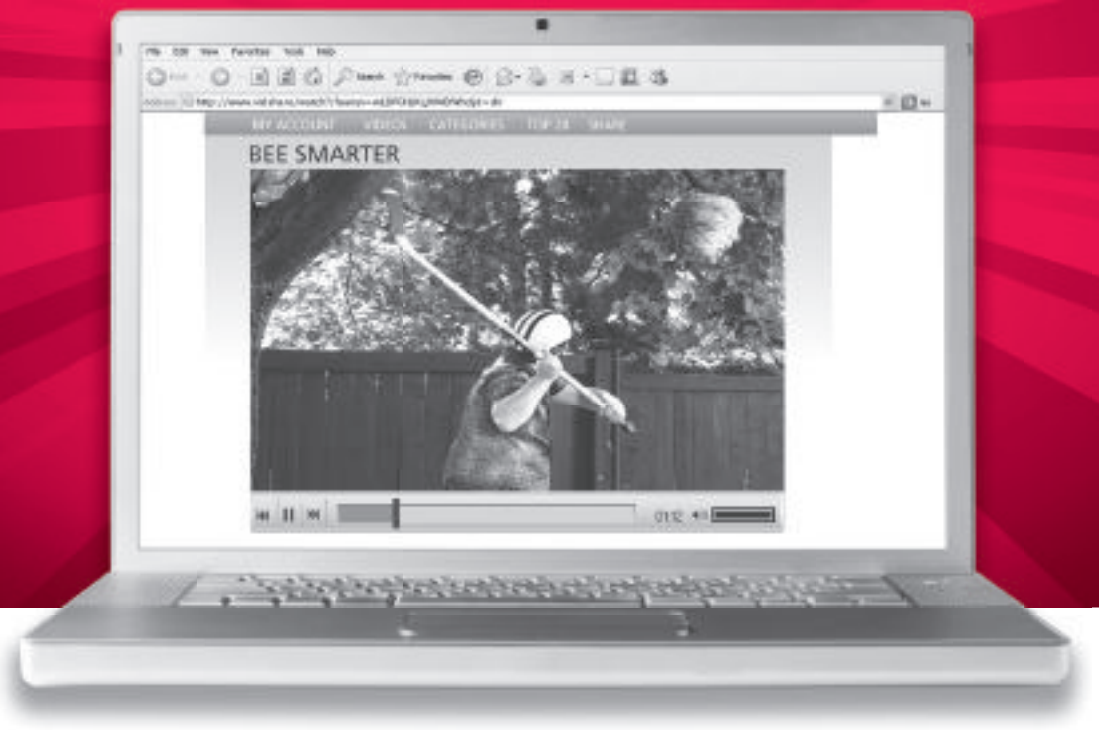

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Indefinite terrorist detention called 'cruel'

Lawyers for a suspected Syrian terrorist, one of five Muslim foreigners held under a national security certificate, is arguing seven years in mostly segregated custody without charge or trial amounts to cruelty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Bartender charged

A bartender in central Alberta was charged with manslaughter on Friday after a 22-year-old customer drank herself to death last fall. The owner at Skip Sports Bar in Calmar — 50 km southwest of Edmonton — has also been charged with criminal negligence causing death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Border wait probed

Internal documents confirm what union officials have been saying for years: the wait times for travellers that Canada's border agency posts on the Internet may not be reliable.

For the last five years, the Canada Border Services Agency has posted wait times for travellers at the 22 busiest border stations along the Canada-U.S. border.

By checking the agency website, travellers can determine before they set out how long a queue they face, whether heading south to the United States or north to Canada.

Officials have claimed Canada meets those targets at least 90 per cent of the time nationally, while U.S. border stations meet the Canadian standard only 85 per cent of the time.

But the union representing border officers, the Customs Excise Union Douanes Accise or CEUDA, has challenged those claims. In 2004, officers did a check of the times and found widespread underreporting — in some cases by as much as two hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The waiting game

- The agency's standard is 10 minutes or less Monday through Thursday, and 20 minutes Friday through Sunday, as well as holidays. A study by the border's union claims the wait is underestimated.

East Coast premiers talk energy with U.S.

ENERGY New England governors and Eastern Canadian premiers are expected to focus on a regional approach to energy when they begin their annual meeting today in Bar Harbor, Maine.

With an energy-hungry New England market and the five eastern provinces all looking to export new sources of energy, the premiers say maintaining good cross-border relations is crucial.

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham has set the ambitious goal of making his province the energy hub for the region, funnelling electricity and natural gas into Maine and beyond. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa **Honouring heroes**

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Linda Nichols is presented with a helmet in honour of her husband who died in the line of duty at the Canadian Fallen Firefighters memorial service on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

News in brief

INVESTIGATION A probe into the death of a Canadian soldier killed Aug 9 during a confusing gun battle in Afghanistan died from insurgent fire and not an errant bullet from a passing private security convoy, military officials said Saturday. The security company was present but engaged in a different battle, the investigation found. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hundreds gather for soldier funeral

FAREWELL Hundreds of people gathered in Winnipeg under grey skies Saturday to say goodbye to a 21-year-old soldier with a "smile that could light up a room."

People held Canadian flags, wore red poppies and stood solemnly on the street as they watched the funeral procession.

Cpl. Mike Seggie died alongside his comrades, Cpl. Andrew Grenon and Pte. Chad Horn, when their armoured vehicle was hit in a "direct attack" Sept. 3 in Afghanistan.

Another 800 people filled a military armoury, attending the ceremony to remember a young Winnipeg man with infectious optimism. "We all talked about Mike's smile," said family friend Angela Cinq-Mars. "You knew you were loved Mike smiled."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Growing Minds Week **All this week, starting at 7pm.**

Triple mortgages. Second jobs. Ultra-competitive parents. Tune into TVO and find out the lengths parents are willing to go to get their child the best education.

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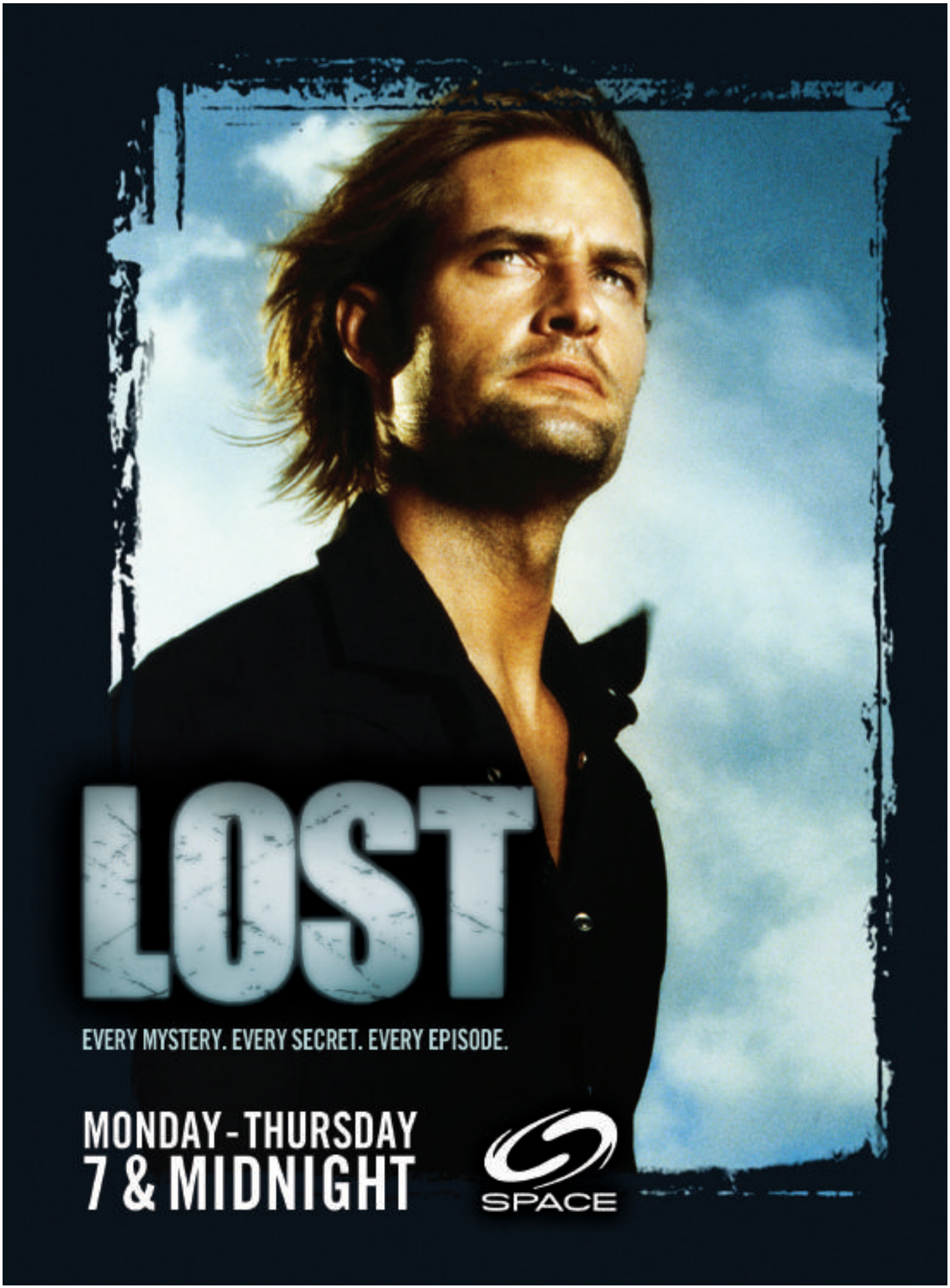
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SPACE

Radio interview makes waves

Ontario Conservative Leader John Tory suspended Bill Murdoch, a veteran Ontario PC member. The always-outspoken Conservative maverick Murdoch said Tory should find a new job during a radio interview, angering Tory and his supporters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$100,000 of pot seized in Toronto drug deal

GROW-OP A "sophisticated and organized" marijuana grow-op has reached the streets of Toronto to a Kitchener home.

On Thursday, police followed three men connected to the house to Toronto and watched an alleged drug deal take place in a parking lot.

When the plainclothes officers swooped in to make arrests, the suspects tried to run them over and fired shots at the officers.

Police arrested four men and one woman at the scene and seized about $100,000 worth of marijuana.

They are to appear in court tomorrow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A jet legging challenge

There's no trick to pulling a 60-ton airliner. It's all in the legs.

"There's not much you can do for training," said Jackie St-Laurent, one of the organizers of the 10th annual plane pull challenge yesterday in Montreal.

"It's leaning back and using your legs to pull and with 20 people it's surprising, you wouldn't think you could move such a huge plane but it moves and it's not so hard," she said.

In its 10-year history, the event has raised a quarter of a million dollars for Special Olympic Quebec's 3,800 athletes.

This year raised $18,500.

Twenty-five teams from companies and police departments competed to see who could pull an Airbus airliner 3.7 metres in the fastest time using only brute human strength.

Sgt. Jean-Marc Michaud, with the Quebec provincial police, has been pulling for four years.

"Normally, we start low, and give a good jump on the rope and when it's moving, run," he said. "It's a little easier than you'd think."

It must have worked.

His team came in first for the fastest pull in the men's or mixed team category, covering the 3.7 metres in 6.61 seconds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PETER MCCABE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Aero Mag 2000 does its best during the 10th annual 767 Challenge at Pierre Trudeau Airport in Montreal yesterday.

Albertans wed in Boeing 737

MARRIAGE Edmonton-area pilots Michael Griffith and Martha Bull tied the knot Saturday aboard a Boeing 737 cruising nearly 10 kilometres above Alberta's capital city.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PROJECT An environmental review panel has approved a uranium exploration project in the Northwest Territories. The panel is endorsing the Crab Lake uranium exploration project put forward by Bayswater Uranium Corp.

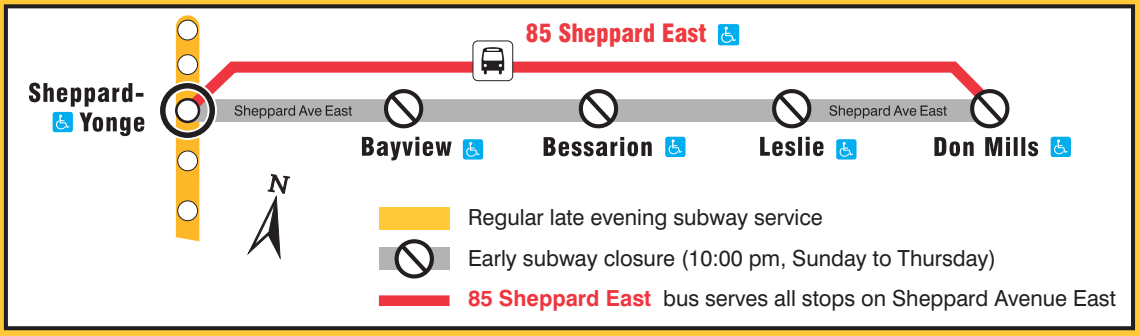
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration

Guidy Mamann

Read this week's column at metronews.ca

Sheppard Subway Early Closure
For Signal Testing
September 7 - 25, Sunday through Thursday



No trains between Sheppard-Yonge and Don Mills stations after 10:00pm, Sunday to Thursday.

Increased bus service on 85 Sheppard East will run every 3-5 minutes.

At Bayview, Bessarion and Leslie stations, customers will need to board the bus at street level.

At Bayview, Bessarion, Leslie and Don Mills stations, transfers are required between buses and the subway.

Regular subway service on Friday and Saturday

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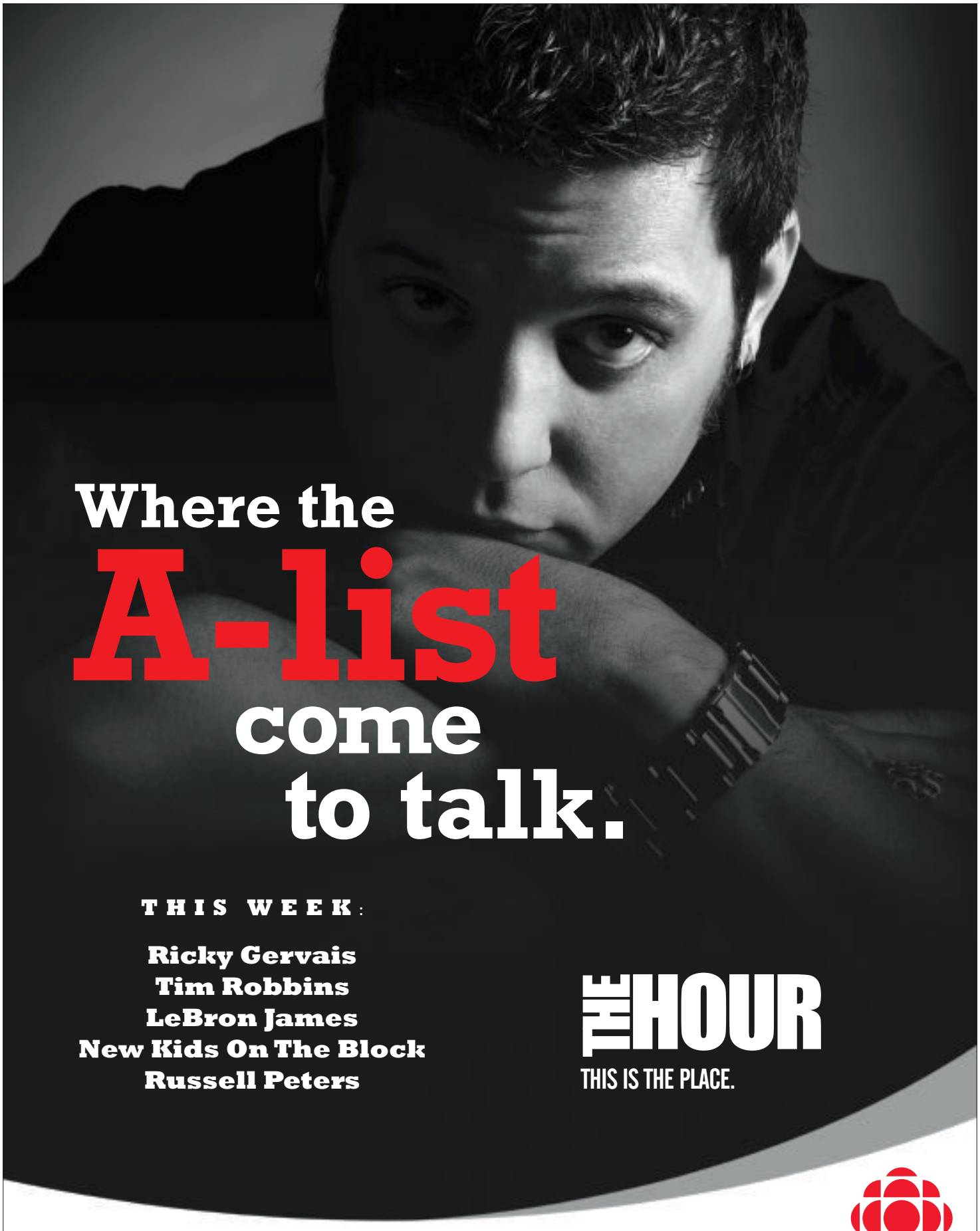
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A-list
come
to talk.
THIS WEEK:
Ricky Gervais
Tim Robbins
LeBron James
New Kids On The Block
Russell Peters
THE HOUR
THIS IS THE PLACE.
NEW SEASON BEGINS
Tonight at 11
CBC
cbc.ca/thehour

Where the leaders are today

Stephen Harper — Ottawa, London, Ont.; Stéphane Dion — St. John's, N.L.; Jack Layton — Halifax, Dartmouth, N.S.; Gilles Duceppe — Senneterre, Rouyn-Noranda, Chibougamau; Elizabeth May — New Glasgow, Pictou, N.S. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Election 2008

Backwards – the way to read an ad

How you say something, especially on TV, can be even more important than what you say

MIKE TENNANT
for Metro Canada

News analysis

One of the best ways to interpret advertising, election or otherwise, is to learn to read an ad backwards — or sdrawkcab, for those who already possess the skill.

To that end, let me teach you a little game I've learned after 25 years in the marketing business. When you first see a campaign ad, go backwards in your mind and imagine yourself at the meeting where it was first conceived. Now imagine someone presenting the "brief": A document outlining the need for the ad and its specific objective. The content of an ad brief is usually a jealously guarded secret, which makes the guessing game all the more fun.

I'll show you what I mean: Consider a Conservative ad running this past week, featuring a Stephen Harper monologue. He's talking about ... well ... for our purpose it doesn't matter because an essential part of so many TV ads is unspoken. Herein lies one of the poorest-kept secrets in my trade: How you say something, especially in a TV ad, can be as important — even more important — than what you say.

The ad opens on the prime minister in a wing chair in a homey environment. He's wearing a light blue shirt and a dark sweater vest. The colour of his eyes evokes memories of Lake Louise in June. He's leaning forward in a heart-to-heart manner; his tone is soft and friendly. An occasional downward glance suggests he's searching his heart — if not the carpet fibres — for just the right words. Most importantly, we hear a touchy-feely piano track, the kind that screams, "Please, someone, hug me!"

Now, work backwards with me to the meeting that first begat the Harper ad. I'll bet the brief presented that day might have read something like this:

Required: 30-second TV ad. Objective: Portray the PM as warm, human, emotional. Background: Designed to soften the opposition-inspired image of the PM as an iceman-ideologue, more interested in policy abstractions than in people and what affects them personally. Ad should reveal warmth within PM's often cool-looking exterior. Wardrobe note: Go with a dark sweater vest — it's slimming.

The trick to this game is remembering that every ad is about solving a problem. By seeing a campaign ad as a solution, you can usually work backwards, and deduce the problem that inspired it. If nothing else, it's a nifty way to sneak a look inside a party's campaign playbook.

On the web

- See www.conservative.ca/EN/4579/102760 for the Stephen Harper ad referred to in Mike Tennant's column.

Mike Tennant is a freelance ad writer and co-creator/writer of Terry O'Reilly and the Age of Persuasion on CBC Radio One.

On Tuesday, October 14, vote.

A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.

To vote, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old on election day
- **prove your identity and address**

Voting in advance

You can vote before election day. Locations of advance polling stations appear on the back of your voter information card.

You can also vote by mail or at your local Elections Canada office using the special ballot if you make the request by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7. Download the *Application for Registration and Special Ballot* form at **www.elections.ca** by clicking on "I'm Mailing My Vote!" or call now.

Remember, you can only vote once. After you have registered to vote by special ballot, you cannot vote any other way in this election.

New identification rules to vote

When you vote, you must prove your identity and address.

For the list of acceptable pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, please see the pamphlet that you will soon receive by mail from Elections Canada or visit **www.elections.ca** and click on "Voter Identification at the Polls".

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Elections Canada

Did you know?

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean

The makeup of Parliament

TRIVIA Canada's Parliament consists of the Queen of Canada, who is represented by the Governor General, the Senate, whose members are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the prime minister, and the House of Commons, whose members are chosen by eligible citizens through federal elections.

ELECTIONS CANADA

News in brief

TRAVEL The Jack Layton campaign criss-crossed the nation this past week flying a total of 22.8 hours, or 13,484 kilometres, and landed in 11 cities stretching from Vancouver to St. John's. The New Democratic Party leader visited six provinces and one territory.

VOTES In 2006, 14,908,703 votes were cast. More than 1,561,039 voters cast their ballots at more than 3,371 polling stations on the three days of advance voting before election day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

29 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Election 2008

Working families on Harper's agenda

PM expected to make announcement today

Stephen Harper takes his campaign into the key battlegrounds of Ontario and Quebec this week, promising to step up attacks on the NDP and the Green party.

The prime minister kicks off Week 2 of the campaign in the nation's capital this morning before heading to southwestern Ontario where he's expected to make a series of "affordable" announcements aimed at "improving the quality of life for working families," a party strategist said yesterday.

And expect Harper to sprinkle his daily speeches with criticisms of the Green party and the New Democrats, a Conservative strategist said.

That's a response to what he claims is a shift in popular support away from the Liberals to these two other parties in the campaign's early days.

"They're beginning to challenge the Liberals as our prime opponent in a number of key areas," the strategist told reporters yesterday. "Liberal support seems to be gravitating to the other two opposition parties."

And he singled out NDP Leader Jack Layton in particular, saying the NDP — not the Liberals — have been serving as the official opposition to the government.

"While the Liberals were abstaining from votes and retreating in a number of issues, the NDP were standing firm," the strategist said.

"I think it has served them well," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Flying the friendly skies

• The verdict is in — reporters have christened Stephen Harper's campaign plane. The winning name is Sweater Vest Jet, a nod to Harper's carefully calculated image move this campaign to dress casually at some stops. The name beat out Fruit Fly, which was was in reference to Harper's response last week that he considered himself more of a fruit than a vegetable.

Dion puts rocky start behind him

Brushing aside the Liberal party's dismal showing in the polls, Stéphane Dion heads back out on the election trail today convinced he is running a campaign that may have winning potential.

Dion feels he has put his rocky start behind him.

"I'm very satisfied," he said in Vancouver on the weekend when reporters asked how he felt about his first week on the campaign trail. After a string of glaring Conservative gaffes and impressive turnouts at his events in Vancouver on Friday and Saturday, Dion appears much more upbeat and at ease as he addresses the public.

The challenge for Dion now is to keep hammering home his key messages, especially his complex and politically risky green plan.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Surprise

• Dion also has to find a way to better connect personally with voters. By the end of last week, his more relaxed, friendly demeanour was surprising audiences expecting to hear from a stuffy policy wonk.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Jack Layton greets supporters at a brunch rally yesterday in Gatineau, Que.

Layton will continue to hound Harper

NDP Leader Jack Layton will ratchet up his attack on Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the second week of the campaign in addition to making cornerstone announcements on health care and poverty, a party spokesman says.

With Layton ahead of Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion in polls on who would be the best prime minister, party spokesman Brad Lavigne said the campaign is underscoring the need to make Harper the target, not Dion.

Layton emphasized that point yesterday, calling Harper's government a disaster on gender issues.

"Harper is a catastrophe for women in Canada."
Jack Layton

"(Harper) does not like the pursuit of equality for women," Layton said in French to 100 supporters at a restaurant in Gatineau, Que. "Harper is a catastrophe for women in Canada."

Layton pointed to the government's changes last year to groups funded by Status of Women Canada — changes that included deleting the word "equality" from funding criteria.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Typhoon Sinlaku slams into Taiwan

Typhoon Sinlaku slammed into Taiwan with heavy rain and strong winds yesterday, killing at least one person and flooding low-lying regions. Several people are reported missing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Dalai Lama told to rest

The Dalai Lama has cancelled a planned trip to Europe in October after doctors advised the Tibetan spiritual leader to rest more while he recovers from exhaustion. The 73-year-old was admitted to a Mumbai hospital last month for exhaustion and abdominal discomfort. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

INDONESIA A suspected bomb exploded yesterday at Indonesia's Moses Kilangin Airport. It was not immediately clear if anyone was killed or injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Palin seized by cult of celebrity

Just a month ago, the Republicans unveiled a curious attack ad aimed at Barack Obama's celebrity, snidely comparing him to Paris Hilton and Britney Spears.

The cult of celebrity, so the ad seemed to suggest, was something American voters should distrust since, after all, celebrities are vapid, shallow and possibly emotionally unhinged.

And then came Sarah Palin.

In the 16 days since Republican presidential nominee John McCain plucked the junior Alaska governor out of relative obscurity to be his running mate, the photogenic Palin has been everywhere — on the cover of glossy celebrity magazines, in a prime-time interview struggling to answer questions about her knowledge and experience, and on Saturday Night Live in the form of an eerily bang-on Tina Fey imitation.

Sarah Palin

An energized McCain suddenly has on his hands the very creature he warned Americans about — a full-fledged star, complete with a Spears-esque pregnant teenaged daughter, a down-home sex appeal many male voters are apparently finding enticing and a no-nonsense working mom persona that some female voters are regarding as equally attractive.

An ABC News poll last week — taken before Palin's prime-time interviews with the network's Charles Gibson — suggested there's been a 20-point swing among white women towards McCain after his pick of Palin. Obama was publicly dismissive of the poll, but his campaign is said to be privately panicking about just how to battle Palin's newfound cult of personality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Democrats raise record $66 million

POLITICS Barack Obama's campaign says the Democratic presidential candidate raised a record $66 million in August with the help of contributions from 500,000 new donors.

Obama's total for August was almost $20 million more than the $47 million Republican rival John McCain raised last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian plane crash kills 88

DEATHS Engine problems are being cited as the most likely cause of yesterday's jetliner crash in central Russia that killed 88 people.

The Boeing-737-500 crashed while on its landing approach, plowing into an unpopulated area of the Ural Mountains city of Perm, a few hundred metres from residential buildings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Race to save storm-hit people in Texas

IKE Rescuers searching the waterlogged streets and splintered houses left behind by Hurricane Ike said yesterday they had saved nearly 2,000 people — many of whom then boarded buses to shelters without knowing where they were going or when they could come home.

More than 48 hours after the first direct hurricane hit on a major U.S. city since Hurricane Katrina, authorities imposed a weeklong nighttime curfew on Houston, where electricity was scarce and downed trees and shattered glass made roads unsafe.

ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An alligator is seen on a road in Sabine Pass, Texas.

The storm also battered the heart of the U.S. oil industry: Federal officials said Ike destroyed a number of production platforms, though it was too soon to know how badly.

Ike was downgraded to a tropical depression as it moved into the U.S. midsection. Roads were closed in Kentucky because of high winds. As far north as Chicago, dozens of people had to be evacuated by boat. Two million people were without power in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The death toll from the storm rose to 13.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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State of emergency lifted in Bangkok
Thailand's acting prime minister has lifted a state of emergency in Bangkok that was imposed Sept. 2 amid a political crisis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Engineer blamed for U.S. train crash

A commuter train engineer who ran a stop signal was blamed Saturday for the deadliest rail disaster in 15 years in the United States, a wreck that killed 25 people and left such a mass of smoldering, twisted metal that it took nearly a day to recover all the bodies.

A preliminary investigation found that "it was a Metrolink engineer that failed to stop at a red signal and that was the probable cause" of Friday's collision with a freight train in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, Metrolink spokeswoman Denise Tyrrell said.

The engineer was among the dead, said National Transportation Safety Board member Kitty Higgins. His name had not been released late Saturday.

Many of the 25 people killed had been in the front car of the Metrolink train, which was crushed like an accordion.

A total of 135 people were injured, with 81 transported to hospitals in serious or critical condition.

A local teenager told CBS2-TV that he had exchanged a brief text message with the engineer shortly before the crash. The station reported that the teen, Nick Williams, was among a group of kids who befriended the engineer and asked him questions about his work.

Tyrrell said before the report aired that she would find it "unbelievable" that an engineer would be text messaging while operating a train. Using a cellphone on duty is against Metrolink rules, former conductor Garcia said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nepal **Goddess on earth**

BINOD JOSHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kumari, or Nepal's living goddess, is taken around the city on a chariot during the Indra Jatra festival in Katmandu.

Pope calls for end to church divisions over use of Latin

CHURCH Pope Benedict is urging Catholics to put aside differences over the use of the old, traditional form of Latin mass.

Benedict told French bishops yesterday that the faithful should be made to feel at home in their church whether they yearn for a return of the ancient tongue or want to stick to modern languages at religious ceremonies.

The controversy is a particularly sensitive one for in France, where there is a strong following for the late churchman Marcel Lefebvre, who rebelled against replacing Latin with local languages in the 1960s.

Last year, Benedict gave parish priests the option of allowing mass to be celebrated in Latin if that choice is sought by a "stable group" of parishioners. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PAKISTAN Security forces say they killed 16 suspected militants and wounded 25 yesterday in fighting in the Bajur region of Pakistan. The area is a suspected hideout of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

SAUDI ARABIA A top Saudi judicial official says owners of satellite TV networks that air "immoral content" should be prosecuted, punished and then given the death penalty if punishments don't deter them from "corrupting people." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When you spend, you save.
And you save some more.

Viterra says striking workers going back to work

Agri-business giant Viterra Inc., formerly known as the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, says its striking workers are going back to work next week while voting on an offer that the company calls its last, best offer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

Oil spill settlement

Canadian National Railway has reached a $10 million settlement with Alberta's Paul Band First Nation over a derailment that leaked massive amounts of oil into a popular recreational lake west of Edmonton. Band members will get a cash payment from a portion of the settlement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

BUYOUTS Chrysler LLC said Friday it will make another round of early retirement and buyout offers to factory workers in Michigan to reduce the number who are on indefinite layoff. About 13,800 of Chrysler's 45,000 hourly workers worldwide are eligible for the offers, and most are in the Detroit metro area, Chrysler said.

LEHMAN The outlook for Lehman Brothers' future dimmed yesterday after Barclays withdrew its bid to buy the beleaguered investment bank and government officials and Wall Street bankers remained at an impasse about a rescue plan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CAW chief to follow Buzz?

The new national president of the Canadian Auto Workers union says he'll continue with his predecessor's tactics, but one analyst says this approach could make things worse for the Canadian auto industry, not better.

Ken Lewenza

Ken Lewenza, elected as Buzz Hargrove's successor Sept. 5, said the union's 250,000 members shouldn't expect a "major change" between his approach and Hargrove's.

Hargrove's main focuses included lobbying for government support for the auto industry, changes in trade policy he said hurt auto exports to fast-growing Asian countries and bringing in new members.

"Buzz Hargrove's approach has been to ... make sure you never lose anything you've gotten in a contract, and get everything he can squeeze out of the companies," said Anthony Faria, an auto industry specialist at the University of Windsor.

He said the result is that Canadian employees of the Detroit Three are costing Chrysler, Ford and GM about $25 more an hour than their U.S. counterparts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another travel firm goes under

LIQUIDATION A second British vacation company, K & S Travel, ceased operations on Saturday, the same week the country's third-largest tour operator, XL Leisure Group, went into liquidation, stranding 50,000 customers abroad. They blamed soaring fuel prices and a weakening economy. K & S Travel customers' return trips are covered by a bond. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gas facts

- Retail gasoline prices are set through commodity markets and wholesale prices.
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Google buys South Korean blogging software company
Google has snapped up South Korean blogging software firm Tatter and Co., or TNC, to expand its reach in Asia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan top in quality

Study ranks broadband Internet connections

"Quality" may be hard to define, but Japanese broadband Internet connections have it, according to a survey released Friday.

No matter how researchers from Oxford University's Said Business School tweaked their definitions, Japan came out best by far.

Sweden was next, followed by the Netherlands, Latvia and South Korea, with the United States ranked 16th, Britain 24th and Canada 27th out of 42 countries covered. Mexico, China and India were last.

Balanced

- When combining quality and quantity, the Netherlands would have the best balance, along with the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, South Korea and Japan.

After debating with a group of experts about how consumers use the net today and how they would define "quality," the authors gave a heavy weighting toward download speed, but also considered upload speeds and "latency," a rough measure of response time.

It was not surprising that Japan had a high score, given the country's early investment in fibre optics, but Japan does not have as large a percentage of broadband users as some countries — in essence emphasizing quality over quantity. Sweden and Latvia have similar profiles.

The Netherlands and South Korea are stronger on percentage of users.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABRAMO DE LUCIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy's Alitalia national airline workers protest inside Rome's Fiumicino airport Friday after investors walked away from what were billed as do-or-die talks seeking union approval.

Alitalia bailout running out of time

AIRLINE Alitalia's administrator warned Saturday that time was running out for saving the bankrupt Italian carrier as he met with unions amid stalled talks on a rescue plan.

Newly appointed Augusto Fantozzi told unions the company could guarantee flights only until yesterday, and that he would start enrolling Alitalia workers in welfare programs today.

"Things are falling apart ... the situation is grave."
Augusto Fantozzi

"Things are falling apart," Fantozzi said. "The situation is grave," with creditors knocking on Alitalia's doors, money running out and increasing difficulties in getting fuel supplies, he said.

On Friday, a group of investors tapped to take over Alitalia walked away from what were billed as do-or-die talks with unions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM set to mark 100th birthday

CRISIS General Motors celebrates its 100th anniversary tomorrow, and the company that was once the United States' largest employer faces a crisis like no other in its storied history.

GM has lost $57 billion US in the past 18 months, including $16 billion in the second quarter alone.

A slumping U.S. market has forced it to close factories and shed workers. But GM can point to progress in one area — cutting expenses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alaska Airlines to slash jobs, cut capacity by 8 per cent

PUNCH Alaska Airlines said Friday it will cut capacity by 8 per cent this winter and slash up to 1,000 jobs, as high fuel costs and a weak U.S. economy provide a "one-two punch" to the carrier's bottom line.

The job cuts represent about 9 per cent to 10 per cent of the airline's 10,000 employees. The 850 to 1,000 positions on the chopping block include pilots, flight attendants and aircraft technicians, as well as reservations, customer service and ramp agents.

The carrier, a unit of Seattle-based Alaska Air Group, says the capacity reductions and job cuts will start in November and continue next year.

Alaska Airlines plans to cancel low-demand flights on Saturdays and holidays, reduce flights by about one roundtrip flight per day on major routes and end seasonal service on three Mexico routes. In total, the cuts will reduce flights by 15 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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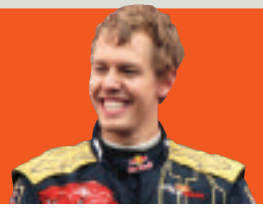
Jeter ties Gehrig for most hits at Yankee Stadium

Derek Jeter hit a solo homer in the fifth inning yesterday, tying Lou Gehrig for the most career hits at Yankee Stadium. Jeter connected against Tampa Bay's David Price for his 1,269th hit at the ballpark, which is in its final season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Vettel youngest F1 winner ever

Sebastian Vettel, left, became the youngest driver to win a Formula One race yesterday after finishing first in a wet Italian Grand Prix from pole position. The 21-year-old German driver edged Heikki Kovalainen of McLaren by 12.5 seconds on the slick Monza circuit to give Torro Rosso its first ever win. "For sure the best day of my life," Vettel said. "These pictures, these emotions — I will never forget." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Playoff hopes all but over

Lester outduels Halladay to drop Jays 8½ games behind Red Sox

Red Sox 4 Blue Jays 3

A pile of little things ganged up on the Blue Jays yesterday and about all they have left now is a mathematical possibility.

Or, in their case, mathematical improbability.

Their meaningful September games now done, the Jays slipped 4-3 to the Red Sox in a game they maybe realized too late they might have had.

A sudden two-run burst in the ninth against closer Jonathan Papelbon, however, ended up as only so much tease.

In dropping three of four on their big Fenway weekend, the Jays squared off the 3-1 split they'd managed in Chicago and dropped nine losses back of the wild card-leading Sox.

They have a dozen to play, half of those with Baltimore, which turns up at the Rogers Centre tomorrow night.

"A couple of calls go our way and maybe we're still playing," said manager Cito Gaston. "We had a .500 road trip. It could have been better. I'm not disappointed at all in how the guys played; I'm disappointed we didn't win a couple of games we probably should have."

Saturday night's, for instance, when a 5-2 lead into the Boston sixth evolved into a crushing 7-5 setback.

And yesterday, when Roy Halladay and young Boston left-hander Jon Lester duelled 2-1 through six — and, in Lester's case, eight.

Lester, 15-5, gave up Jose Bautista's one-out homer in the first, then precious little else.

Halladay, 18-11, gave up hits — and eventual runs — to his leadoff man in both the first and second, then mowed through 13 straight until a Mike Lowell single to open the seventh.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL DWYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Scott Rolen can not reach a ground ball single hit by Boston's Mike Lowell during yesterday's game in Boston. The Jays lost 4-3 to the Red Sox.

Biffle claims first blood in Cup Chase

NASCAR Greg Biffle halted a 33-race winless streak with a late surge past Jimmie Johnson in the opening race of the Chase for the championship.

Johnson, the two-time defending series champion, seemed to have the first round of the Chase locked up after leading a race-high 96 laps yesterday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. But a pair of late cautions gave Biffle a chance, and he seized it by passing Johnson with 12 laps to go for the surprise win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thigpen sends letter to K-Rod

MLB Former Chicago White Sox reliever Bobby Thigpen was quick to congratulate the man who broke his saves record, sending a note yesterday to Los Angeles Angels closer Francisco Rodriguez. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nice hair.

(I guess if you're reading this it's too late to fix it!)

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Canadians finish one-two in mountain bike standings

Canadians Marie-Helen Premont and Catharine Pendrel clinched the top two spots in the World Cup women's mountain-biking standings following the season's final race yesterday. Premont, of Chateau-Richer, Que., finished third in the cross-country race but cemented top spot overall in the nine-event series. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Petitclerc pulls off a remarkable double

Chantal Petitclerc barely had time to catch her breath between winning two gold medals and setting a pair of world records at the Paralympics yesterday.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chantal Petitclerc celebrates yesterday after setting a new world record after the women's 800-metre T54 finals.

The veteran wheelchair racer from Montreal won the 200 metres in 27.52 seconds. Then, about 90 minutes later, she collected her fourth gold medal of the Games by winning the 800 metres in a world record time of one minute 45.19 seconds.

"I've never done that in my life," said Petitclerc, 38, who has set three world records in Beijing. "I told my coach, never again. This was a stressful day.

"When I go back to the village and get into my room with these medals, I will think about it. It's just amazing."

Diane Roy of Hatley, Que., finished third in the 800 metres to collect her third medal of the Paralympics. Roy thought she had a chance at silver but got boxed in with some other racers on the track.

"I think I did what I had to do and I finished well," said Roy, who was timed in 1:48.07. "The goal was to have a podium so everything is fine."

Roy called Petitclerc's two wins amazing.

"I think the only thing she had to do (after the 200 metres) was refocus and just do it," said Roy. "She can be very fast. That's wonderful."

Earlier in the day, Calgary's Earle Connor won the 100 metres in the T42 class in a Paralympic record time of 12.32 seconds.

Swimmers Chelsey Gotell of Antigonish, N.S., and Anne Polinario of Montreal also won gold on a nine-medal day for Canada at the Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Saints give head coach Payton a contract extension
New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton has received a contract extension through the 2012 season. Payton's deal was confirmed by the team before yesterday's game against the Washington Redskins. Payton already was signed through 2009. The new deal adds three years to his contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bills off to best start since '03

Edwards and Co. take down highly-touted Jaguars on the road

The Jacksonville Jaguars had the lead, momentum and home-field advantage. None of that mattered to Trent Edwards.

Edwards was good early and even better later, doing just enough to lead the Buffalo Bills to their best start in five years.

Edwards finished 20-of-25 passing for 239 yards and a touchdown — a perfect seven-yard toss to James Hardy in the fourth quarter — as Buffalo beat the beleaguered Jacksonville Jaguars 20-16 on a steamy yesterday.

"Trent was really good, particularly when he had to be," Bills coach Dick Jauron said. "(His play) was a huge part of the game."

Buffalo last started 2-0 in 2003.

Giants 41, Rams 13 — Justin Tuck's 41-yard interception return in the fourth quarter was one of several big plays by the New York Giants' defence in another stifling effort.

Colts 18, Vikings 15 — Peyton Manning rallied Indianapolis from a 15-0 hole late in the third quarter, moving Adam Vinatieri into position for the winning field goal with three seconds left.

Packers 48, Lions 25 — Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes in the first four drives of his second start, helping Green Bay build a big lead it needed.

Raiders 23, Chiefs 8 — Rookie Darren McFadden ran for 164 yards and a touchdown and Sebastian Janikowski kicked a team-record 56-yard field goal.

Titans 24, Bengals 7 — Backup quarterback Kerry Collins threw his first touchdown pass in two years, rookie Chris Johnson ran for 109 yards.

Panthers 20, Bears 17 — Jonathan Stewart rushed for all but one of his 77 yards in the second half and scored two touchdowns.

Redskins 29, Saints 24 — Jason Campbell went from uncomfortable to prolific, completing 24-of-36 passes for 321 yards.

49ers 33, Seahawks 30 (OT) — Joe Nedney shook off a missed field goal as time expired in regulation and kicked a 40-yarder 4:40 into overtime.

Broncos 39, Chargers 38 — Denver went for a two-point conversion with 29 seconds left. Jay Cutler hit rookie Eddie Royal over the middle to give the Broncos a win over the stunned San Diego Chargers.

Buccaneers 24, Falcons 9 — Rookie Matt Ryan was intercepted twice in the first half and Tampa Bay's Brian Griese turned the miscues into a touchdown and field goal.

Cardinals 31, Dolphins 10 — Kurt Warner completed 19-of-24 passes for 361 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. Anquan Boldin caught all three scores, a career high.

Patriots 19, Jets 10 — Matt Cassel was efficient running the offence in his first NFL start, taking over for the injured Tom Brady, going 16-of-23 for 165 yards.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

Buffalo Bills wide receiver James Hardy reaches up to make a touchdown catch late in the fourth quarter against the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Bills defeated the Jaguars 20-16.

Russia tops Spain to win Fed Cup

TENNIS Russia won its fourth Fed Cup in five years yesterday, defeating Spain when Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Anabel Medina Garrigues 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to clinch the title.

The victory gave Russia an insurmountable 3-0 lead in the top team event in women's tennis.

The Russians made it 4-0 when Elena Vesnina and Ekaterina Makarova downed Nuria Llagostera Vives and Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-1 in doubles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schnyder, Simon claim titles

TENNIS Second-seeded Patty Schnyder of Switzerland won her first title in three years, defeating Austrian teenager Tamira Paszek 6-3, 6-0 yesterday to take the Bali Open.

It was the 12th WTA singles title for the 29-year-old Schnyder

On the men's side. Gilles Simon of France won his second straight BCR Open Romania by beating Carlos Moya 6-3, 6-4 in yesterday's final.

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Ryder Cup forces CFL game broadcast to TSN2

A scheduling conflict will result in a CFL game this week being aired on TSN2. The CFL announced yesterday the Edmonton Eskimos-Montreal Alouettes game on Sept. 21 will be carried on TSN2 instead of TSN. The all-sports network has a contractual obligation to broadcast golf's Ryder Cup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

GOLF Angela Stanford won the Bell Micro LPGA Classic yesterday for her second career LPGA Tour title, holing a 3½-foot par putt on the final hole for a 1-over 73 and a one-stroke victory over China's Shanshan Feng.

FOOTBALL Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis will delay undergoing surgery on the knee he injured during Saturday's game against Michigan for at least a month and may forego it altogether.

GOLF Robert Karlsson got his first victory in two years, shooting 1-under 71 yesterday to win the Mercedes-Benz Championship by two strokes over Francesco Molinari.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Racing Rossi wins as motorcycles return to Indy

DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy's Valentino Rossi won the inaugural Red Bull Indianapolis GP yesterday after the race was halted eight laps from the finish because of heavy rain and wind. The event marked the first time motorcycles have raced at the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway since 1909.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 4 TORONTO 3
Baltimore 7 Minnesota 3
Chicago White Sox 4 Detroit 2 (1st gm)
Kansas City 13 Cleveland 3
L.A. Angels 4 Seattle 3
N.Y. Yankees 8 Tampa Bay 4
Oakland 7 Texas 4
Detroit at Chicago White Sox (2nd gm)

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 7 N.Y. Mets 4
Cincinnati 2 Arizona 1 (10 ings)
Colorado 1 L.A. Dodgers 0 (10 ings)
Florida 8 Washington 7
Philadelphia 7 Milwaukee 3 (1st gm)
Pittsburgh 7 St. Louis 2
San Francisco 8 San Diego 6 (10 ings)
Milwaukee at Philadelphia (2nd gm)
Chicago Cubs vs. Houston

TONIGHT'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Minnesota at Cleveland, 7:05
Chicago Sox at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05
Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Detroit at Texas, 8:05
Seattle at Kansas City, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 7:05
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 7:10
San Diego at Colorado, 8:35
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	7	4	0	14
TORONTO	4	7	0	8
Winnipeg	3	8	0	6
Hamilton	2	9	0	4

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	3	0	16
Edmonton	7	4	0	14
Calgary	7	4	0	14
B.C.	6	5	0	12

WEEK 12

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Calgary 41 Montreal 30
Winnipeg 39 TORONTO 9

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
B.C. 28 Saskatchewan 23
Edmonton 38 Hamilton 33

NFL

WEEK 2

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Arizona 31 Miami 10
Buffalo 20 Jacksonville 16
Carolina 20 Chicago 17
Denver 39 San Diego 38
Green Bay 48 Detroit 25
Indianapolis 18 Minnesota 15
New England 19 N.Y. Jets 10
N.Y. Giants 41 St. Louis 13
Oakland 23 Kansas City 8
San Francisco 33 Seattle 30 (OT)
Tampa Bay 24 Atlanta 9
Tennessee 24 Cincinnati 7
Washington 29 New Orleans 24
Pittsburgh at Cleveland

TONIGHT'S GAME
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30
Baltimore at Houston (ppd. until Nov. 9, hurricane)

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Plants, animals endangered

Climate change is predicted to endanger 1 million species of plants and animals by 2050, according to The Live Earth: Global Warming Survival Handbook by David de Rothschild. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Save on wardrobe

Looking to save money on your wardrobe — swap and share clothes with friends who have similar tastes and size, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha.

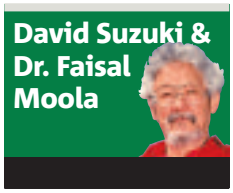
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Catching election fever

Become informed about issues, party positions on the environment

ScienceMatters



With all the elections coming this fall and winter, global warming is bound to spike up with the increased hot air. South of the border, they're electing a president, and here in Canada we're heading into a federal election.

It would be great if the environment didn't have to be an election issue. If all political parties recognized it's an issue so critical that it should transcend partisan politics, then we could vote for our party of choice based on its fiscal and social policies. The goal should be to convince all political parties to make the environment the top priority rather than to vote for the party with the best environmental record and policies. But the environment is an election issue, and as our situation stands, it should be the top election issue, especially in our upcoming federal election.

After all, if we keep dragging our heels on environmental protection, our economic and social systems will, at best, face increasing stress from the costs of dealing with environmental health effects and diminishing resources, and, at worst, be moot points.

But it's difficult for voters to cut through all the rhetoric. Will the Liberals' Green Shift start us on a path toward sustainability, or is it just a "tax on everything?" Will the Conservative plan lead to reduced greenhouse gases "while preserving our standard of living and way of life," or will it stall needed action on global warming? What about the NDP's green agenda for Canada? What role does the Green party play?

I can't tell you which party to vote for; I'm not even sure which one I'll vote for! But I can say that

it's vitally important for all Canadians to put the environment at the top of the agenda in this election. That means becoming informed about the issues and the various party positions on those issues and asking the candidates some direct questions.

I can tell you what I believe are some of the most important issues.

Global warming is at the top of the list. Years of inaction by various governments mean that urgent measures are needed — but it's not a choice between environment and economy. On the contrary, other countries have shown that actions such as shifting from reliance on fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy to renewable sources creates numerous jobs and economic opportunities, as well as reducing carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. I also believe that putting a price on carbon emissions, through measures such as carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems, is essential and has been shown to be effective in other countries.

If we want democracy to work, we can't just leave it all up to the politicians. Governments are there to serve us, so it's up to us to let them know what is important to us and what we believe they must do to ensure that we continue to enjoy the quality of life that so many have worked to build in this country. So, get out and vote, but before you do, don't just listen to the candidates — talk to them as well.

I'm sure I'll have more to say as the campaign unfolds. Stay tuned.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

Nearly $2M in B.C. climate dividend cheques sent in error

B.C. Finance Minister Colin Hansen admits the B.C. government mailed out nearly $2 million worth of its controversial $100 climate dividend cheques to people who no longer live in B.C. or are no longer living at all.

Hansen said 18,000 cheques have been mailed out to people who were not eligible for the dividend.

Only people living in the province on the last day of December 2007 were eligible, but Hansen said the list of recipients was not quite up to date because it was based on 2006 and 2007 tax returns.

"The Canadian Revenue Agency mailed out, on our behalf, 3.8 million cheques," he said Friday.

He said the cheques sent in error represent a small portion of the climate dividend program.

"So, the 18,000 is actually less than one-quarter of one per cent," Hansen said.

He said the agency has sent out notices asking those who were not eligible to return the cheques and will deduct the money from the tax accounts of those who fail to do so.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Product

New dishwashing liquid unveiled

INGREDIENTS The Clorox Company recently introduced environmentally-friendly Green Works™ Dishwashing Liquid.

Green Works is made from plant-based ingredients derived from coconuts and lemon oil. The ingredients used in Green Works products are sustainable, non-allergenic and biodegradable. Green Works products are not tested on animals and are packaged in bottles that can be recycled.

Green Works™ Dishwashing Liquid will be available in five scents: Original, water lily, simply tangerine, free & clear, and simply lemon.

For more information, visit www.greenworks cleaners.com and www.cloroxgreenworks.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

ECO OPTIONS Most household cleaners contain ingredients that pose a risk to both your family's health and the environment. When cleaning around the house, trade in those synthetic and harsh chemical cleaners for a biodegradable alternative. Eco-friendly options are becoming more readily available and are just as effective. When switching to a greener alternative, make sure you don't pour your old cleaners down the drain. Check your local municipality for a household hazardous waste program. NEWS CANADA

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An Open Letter From Donald Trump To All Toronto Area Residents Who Want To Get Rich In Real Estate & Business!

Trump Tells All!

"I've Made Billions And Now I want To Share My Success Secrets With You!"

– Donald Trump,
Executive Producer, The Apprentice, NBC • Chairman, Trump Institute

Dear Toronto Area Resident,

Have you seen my TV show, *The Apprentice*? It's been one of the top rated shows on NBC for eight consecutive seasons!

Not only that, it has made me a media phenomenon and forever changed my life.

And now, at the age of 60, I've decided to make a bold move to share my knowledge and experience in such a way that it could be a great advantage to you.

What Kind Of Advantage?

The best kind of advantage; the kind of advantage that could make you money and make you rich.

If you are seriously interested in hearing what I have to say about being successful, about making money and about getting rich, please read every word of this letter carefully. It contains an invitation for you to discover what has taken me the better part of my life to learn and put into action.

Please let me explain.

Before *The Apprentice,* I was famous for building the world's largest and most beautiful buildings, golf courses and casinos, and for being a marketing whiz when it comes to succeeding in business. Everywhere I went people treated me like royalty and I was generally considered a big shot.

Everything Has Changed!

Because of *The Apprentice,* everything has changed. I have truly become a household word, globally. Everywhere I go people say something to me. Sometimes they say, "Trump, you're fired!" Or, "You're hired!" But always, they greet me with respect, humor and friendship. It's like they know me personally.

I love that!

With this monumental fame there comes a great responsibility (and an enormous opportunity) to make a huge contribution to the North American economy.

Something Extraordinary For You!

Since the amazing success of *The Apprentice,* I have been wondering what to do with this new power of worldwide fame. Recently I got the idea to do something truly extraordinary and totally outside of the box.

What I've decided is that I want to train and educate the next generation of real estate moguls and business entrepreneurs. Why?

There are two very good reasons:

Reason #1:

America's been very good to me and my family and this is a great way I can give back to the country and help stimulate real economic growth.

Reason #2:

I believe that what I have to share will create so much success for my students, that I will leave a legacy as being the father of modern real estate acquisition and entrepreneurial success.

You see, one thing you should know about me is that more than anything, I want to be known as a great businessman, maybe even the greatest!

That's why I have created Trump Institute.

Want To Know How I Do It?

Would you like to know how I buy and sell real estate? How I pick properties for huge profits and high yield equity gains?

Would you like to know what I look for when buying a business or starting a new business? If so, I'm inviting you to come to a special seminar introducing Trump Institute. At this seminar you'll see first hand the type of education I am offering.

Who Should Attend?

If you're asking yourself, "could this be the moment that changes everything for me?" All I can say is, you'll never know unless you try.

Your Success Depends On You!

Ultimately, your success depends on you, and with my help, you can get an education and an advantage that has not only proven to work for me, but it has also worked for many of the world's richest men and women.

You see, in my quest to be the best, I have sought the advice and guidance from people who have also experienced mega-billionaire success. I have incorporated their techniques and experiences into my own personal treasure chest of successful business and real estate knowledge, strategies, and wisdom.

A Powerful Team of Experts!

I also have an incredible team of business entrepreneurs and real estate mavens (very talented experts), who deliver my material and my lessons.

These are men and women who are highly successful professionals in business and real estate. They speak from my lips to your ears and they back it up with experience, knowledge and wisdom. I wouldn't put my name on it any other way.

Money-Making Skills

Through this seminar you'll learn practical money-making advice about how to be successful in business and how I invest in real estate.

Here's just a sample of what you'll learn:

- **You are going to learn the Trump Way to get cash back when you BUY a property.**
- Learn the Trump Way to get other people to jump-start your business.
- **The Trump Way to find great deals in the hidden markets others don't know about.**
- The Trump Way to finance your business without putting up your house or risking personal liability.
- **The Trump Way to build YOUR real estate empire property by property**
- You will discover the Trump Way to make piles of cash.
- **You will learn the Trump Way to get the government to buy your product and rent your properties.**
- You'll see the Trump Way to negotiate with bankers—and win big!
- **The Trump Way to be your own boss—forever.**
- The Trump Way to build your retirement account quickly and live the lifestyle of your dreams.
- **The Trump Way to stop paying high taxes.**
- The Trump Way to build your Power Team—the right way.
- **The Trump Way to structure your business organization for maximum profit and protection.**
- The Trump Way to make terrific deals on real estate in a buyers OR sellers market.

If you're serious about winning in business or catching the world's greatest wave of real estate profits, come to this introductory seminar. There are more opportunities in business and real estate in the **Toronto** area than ever before.

This Is Your Invitation

It is for this reason that I am making an absolutely irresistible invitation for you to attend my Trump Institute Introductory Seminar.

It's FREE!

Here's the deal: Admission is FREE, but you must call and make a reservation.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump

P.S. When I said I was going to give you my best deal, I wasn't kidding! See below!

P.P.S. My Best Deal!

My Best Selling Book FREE!

As a special bonus for all seminar attendees, I am offering free, a special edition copy of my best selling book:

Think Like A Billionaire!

This is a fantastic business and real estate book and has been a best-seller in book stores around the country.

You'll receive this book FREE, with my compliments and best wishes, at the end of the seminar. There are several days to choose from and several locations available. Look for a location near you. Call today! Thank you.

Call Today 1-800-601-8218 or Go To www.trumpwn.com For Reservations To This Trump Institute Introductory Seminar.

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  (Yonge & Gerrard St. W.)
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  1:00pm or 7:00pm
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  (Corner of Dixon & Kelfield Rd.)
- **TUE., SEPT. 23RD**
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(Additional materials will be offered for sale at this Introductory Conference.)

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Grow a greener family

Take an 'every-bit-helps' attitude to instil awareness

Instilling a sense of environmental responsibility is good for your children — and their future. Your kids absorb all the values that you live as a family. That means you'll exert an influence just by making environmental awareness part of your outlook.

The idea beneath it all: Your entire household is a living, breathing organism with its own environmental "footprint." Try to walk gently by practising the three Rs — reduce, reuse, recycle — as much as you can. Taking an "every-bit-helps" attitude also helps your kids feel empowered by teaching them the many ways they can contribute to helping our planet.

Ideas for your green team:

Each in its place. Make sure everyone understands what can be recycled and where it goes. If you don't have curbside pickup, organize regular trips to the recycling depot.

The big turn-off. To help remind everyone to turn off lights, computers, TVs, stereos and video game units when not in the room, set up a penalty jar. At the end of the year, buy a tree for the yard, bikes for the family, or make a donation to a green charity.

Get out. Enjoying outdoor activities in natural surroundings fosters respect for nature and an understanding of our place in it. Camping, nature walks, cross-country skiing and canoeing are just a few ways of getting closer to the natural world.

Own it. Make each child responsible for learning about and carrying out one green activity. For example, your 14-year-old son could be responsible for replacing batteries with rechargeable ones (except in smoke and CO2 alarms) and keeping them charged.

Every member of your family can help to reduce, reuse and recycle.

From hummus to humus. Maintaining a compost bin is a fun way for younger kids to see firsthand how our actions can affect the Earth in a positive way.

Go sale-ing. Make it an annual tradition to hold a clutter-busting family lawn sale for unwanted toys, clothes, books and DVDs. Or schedule a twice-yearly trip to the thrift shop.

Lunch without litter. Pack lunch foods and drinks in reusable plastic containers with reusable cutlery and a washable cloth napkin, and get everyone a cloth lunch sack in a different colour for easier grab'n'go mornings: It could save nearly 20 kilograms of garbage per person each year.

So blue. Place a blue bin next to every desk in your home. Assign a younger kid to empty the bins for pick up. For every four-foot stack you recycle, you save one tree.

Pass it on. Rent, borrow or share DVDs and videos, video games, music and books more often, or buy used instead of new.

Clean green. Take work clothes and school uniforms to a green dry cleaner that doesn't use toxic solvents such as perchloroethylene and that will recycle used wire hangers and plastic clothing wrap.

New threads. Traditionally, textiles have had a big impact on the environment (one-third of a pound of chemicals are needed to produce the cotton for one T-shirt). Recycle old clothes as thrift shop donations or the rag bin. Many teens are into vintage and repurposed designs. Look for new clothes in innovative "green" fabrics made from sustainable sources such as hemp, soy and bamboo.

NEWS CANADA

A tree can only do so much. Get inspired with environmental resources, rebates and tips at livegreentoronto.ca
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TORONTO

Waking up unrefreshed day after day?

Sleep is vital for us to function effectively. Yet there are many people who, day after day, wake up feeling unrefreshed or unrestored. This non-restorative sleep condition, or NRS, leaves you tired – impairing your thinking and your ability to perform at your best.

- *Are you male or female aged 18-64?*
- *Have you been waking up unrefreshed and unrestored at least three times a week for the past three months despite getting to sleep and staying asleep normally?*
- *Do you feel your lack of restorative sleep impairs your daily performance and activities?*

If you answered 'yes' to the above questions, you may be eligible to participate in a ten-week research study of an investigational medicine for non-restorative sleep.
If you qualify, you will receive study-related evaluations and investigational medicine at no cost, plus compensation for time and travel.

All photos are for illustrative purposes only.

For more information or to find out if you are eligible for the study, please contact:

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University of Windsor opens $1.5M med school
The University of Windsor officially opened its new $15-million medical school, which is a satellite program of the University of Western Ontario's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Anti-intellectualism

The Conservative Party is portraying Liberal leader Stéphane Dion as an out-of-touch, nerdy professor in its election ads, and the use of anti-intellectualism doesn't play well in Canada, according to CAUT president James Turk.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Out of work, but employable

Job gaps can be explained by focusing on the positive

The business world was surprised in August 2007 when Robert Nardelli landed the top job at Chrysler LLC after being shown the door as The Home Depot's CEO in January. Not all out-of-work employees bounce back so easily.

With the economy the way it is, job seekers may have longer searches ahead. However, experts say a stretch of unemployment is not the black mark it used to be.

A layoff, or time off to deal with work-life balance issues, won't keep you from getting an interview or a job offer — if you know how to handle it, say executive recruiters.

"I don't think it's as big a negative as people think, if you have a good story," said Barry Lawrence, career expert at Jobfox, a job search site.

Employees today will switch jobs 10 to a dozen times in a career, and there will be "hiccups" along the way, said Lawrence. "Even in a good economy, businesses are changing focus, people are going to fall through the cracks," he said.

Recruiters understand that and have probably lived through it themselves, Lawrence said.

Jeffrey Steinberg was an executive recruiter for two decades before he left the business in 2001. Searches dried up after the 9-11 attacks and his wife was dying of cancer, so Steinberg, who was self-employed, shut down his business. Since his wife's death in 2002, he has focused on taking writing courses and working on poetry and fiction; he said he was lucky to have the financial resources to explore his passion.

Seven years later, he's planning to return to work. At 55, he's less concerned about the seven-year gap in his resumé than competing against younger people.

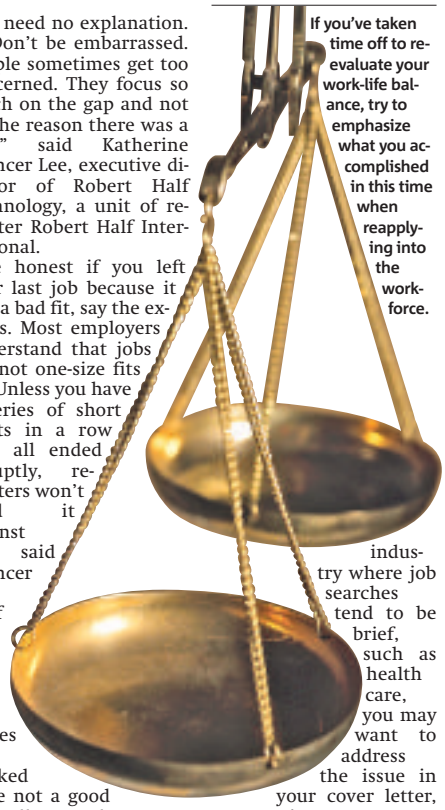
"I think age is a bigger deal. It hasn't affected me yet — but I think the resumé I have doesn't have all these dates I had," he said. Steinberg has worked up two resumés, one chronological and one organized around the types of experience and achievements in his career.

"Anybody who will hire me at this stage of my life is going to hire me for a certain set of skills," he said.

In fact, recruiters stress that if you must address your resumé gaps in a job search, focus on presenting the time off from work as a positive, learning experience. Some gaps, such as taking time to care for a sick relative or to go back to school, explain themselves. Layoffs due to corporate meltdowns such as Enron Corp. or Bear Stearns Co. also need no explanation.

"Don't be embarrassed. People sometimes get too concerned. They focus so much on the gap and not on the reason there was a gap," said Katherine Spencer Lee, executive director of Robert Half Technology, a unit of recruiter Robert Half International.

Be honest if you left your last job because it was a bad fit, say the experts. Most employers understand that jobs are not one-size fits all. Unless you have a series of short stints in a row that all ended abruptly, recruiters won't hold it against you, said Spencer Lee.



If you've taken time off to re-evaluate your work-life balance, try to emphasize what you accomplished in this time when reapplying into the workforce.

"If the last five places you worked were not a good fit, tell me why we as number six should hire you," she said.

In most cases, you don't need to volunteer an explanation; most interviewers will ask about your employment history. But if you are worried that you have a significant gap in your history and you're applying in an industry where job searches tend to be brief, such as health care, you may want to address the issue in your cover letter, say recruiters.

Also consider sending a functional resumé, like Steinberg's, with entries organized by skill set.

"People think of this as 'Am I fudging?' or 'Am I cheating?' You're not, you're just presenting yourself in the most positive light," said Lawrence.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tips on how to deal with gaps

- Be proactive. If you think a gap in your resumé is going to be a factor, address it in your cover letter. Focus on what you learned during your unemployment period and how that will serve in the job you're after.
- But don't overdo it. If you're called in for an interview, let the interviewer bring up the gap. If he or she doesn't ask about it, it doesn't matter.

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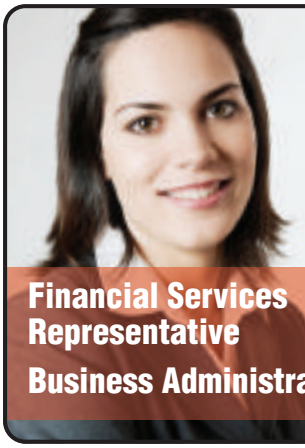
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Cuts at VIU cause waiting lists

This spring, Vancouver Island University announced staff cuts due to a projected $3.2-million budget deficit, and these cuts have resulted in longer waiting lists for classes and fewer options for students. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workplaces looking to Facebook

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Most people consider sites like Facebook to be a fun diversion but an increasing number of businesses are copying those sites' ways of getting people to work together.

Derek Burney, a general manager at Microsoft, says that as business continues to evolve with technology, the sheer quantity of information grows — along with the need to manage it all effectively.

"The corporate landscape is changing — there's just an incredible amount of information people are dealing with today and so much information out there is coming at you from all directions," Burney said.

Traditional email collaboration usually leads to an avalanche of emails, multiple copies of the same file being shuttled back and forth and seldom a clear idea of which copy is the most recent. Many businesses are instead looking enviously towards social networking sites, hoping to emulate their quick and easy style of information exchange.

"We hear a lot that these social networking applications are productivity killers but the reality is they can feed productivity because as people share what they are thinking, they start to collaborate," Burney said.

Facebook and other sites like it may be popular as social networking tools, but some companies are looking to incorporate them, as well.

The business applications are obvious: Facebook and similar social networking sites allow users to group and communicate with each other electronically, send information viewable only by selected members and collaborate easily over any distance. Many businesses are finally starting to clue in by starting their own Facebook-style internal networks or using business-networking applications like Microsoft's Sharepoint software.

"We're building Facebook-style desktop experiences rather than web pages," said Peter Carson, president of Envision IT which helped develop Sharepoint and created internal sites for businesses including The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canadian Tire and College Pro Painters. Carson says smaller companies have so far been more conducive to adopting the technology but expects bigger firms will slowly embrace it.

Burney says a generation gap does still exist between younger users already comfortable with social networking and older ones less enthused about it but insists corporations need to provide the kinds of tools the younger generation is accustomed to using if they want their workforce to stay competitive.

Demetri Sophianopoulous, a project manager at Canadian Tire Corporation Limited, says the benefits of using Facebook-style collaboration software like Sharepoint in the office includes not only increased efficiency, but also saves paper. For a company currently running more than 400 stores across the country, every penny saved can have a huge effect.

"We'll be almost entirely paperless soon. Paper costs are what they are and if we can reduce them, it's a benefit," Sophianopolous said.

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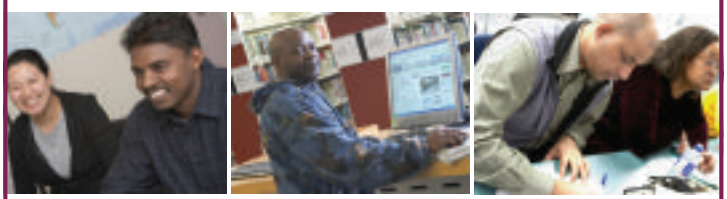

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Carleton hacker turns himself in
A Carleton University student who hacked into the electronic accounts of 32 students has turned himself in to campus officials after he was tracked down through e-mails he sent through Carleton's computer network. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Many fear retirement funds won't be enough

Nearly 30 per cent of Canadians nearing retirement are less than confident the money they're socking away for when they leave the workforce will suffice to maintain their standard of living, according to data from Statistics Canada.

The survey found that 19 per cent of respondents aged 45 to 59 are expecting their retirement income will be "barely adequate." Another 9 per cent expect it to be "inadequate" or "very inadequate."

Statistics Canada senior analyst Grant Schellenberg said respondents weren't explicitly asked about the reasons behind their answers, but he said researchers can gain insight by looking at other characteristics.

Those who have pension coverage and more years of service are more positive about their retirement financial future, he said. The same applies to those with RRSP contributions and who own a home, he added.

"So not surprisingly, those with greater financial resources had far more positive assessments of their financial future in retirement than those with fewer financial resources," Schellenberg said.

The percentages of those expecting less than stellar retirement income comes as no surprise to one financial expert who believes the numbers are actually much higher, and said many people planning to call it quits before or at age 65 will likely be in for a rude financial awakening. Kurt Rosentreter, a certified financial planner and chartered accountant in Toronto, said for the vast majority of people who don't have guaranteed pensions, he finds "very few" have any clue about the status of their retirement savings.

Another component is that whether it's cars, vacations or eating out, the average Canadian isn't too crazy about giving up their lifestyle because they're getting older, he said.

"The old kind of textbook rule of thumb that you can retire on 70 per cent of your income — I'm absolutely not seeing that," said Rosentreter.

"I'm seeing many people spending more in their 60s than they did in their 50s in a way that you actually need to have even more money.

"I think because people don't want to be forced to live off of half or a third of their pre-retirement cash flow that their only answer is to work longer."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Understanding

- While most people approaching retirement said they understood Canada's public retirement programs, like the Canada Pension Plan, one-quarter said they didn't understand the programs at all.

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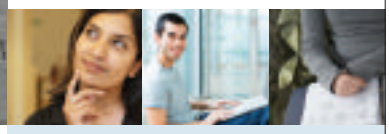
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UBC names learning centre after "dot-ca" founder
The University of British Columbia has named the Demco Student Learning Centre in the computer department after the university's former computing facilities manager John Demco, who conceived the "dot-ca" domain in 1987. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Swinging into an acting career

OddJobs

If you go out to see a big, touring musical this year — say, the Monty Python inspired Spamalot — keep in mind that every actor mentioned in your program might not be onstage that night. Actors get sick; they pull muscles in dance numbers, and they sometimes need a vacation from a nonstop tour.

Lead actors get covered by their understudies. But what about smaller roles? Those jobs get taken care of by swing actors. These masters of multitasking have to know multiple parts and perform them as perfectly as the regular actor.

That's what 25-year-old Graham Bowen is doing for Spamalot, which he joined in April 2007. Bowen knows all the lines, singing lines and dance steps for six ensemble roles in the show. These parts are multiple roles in themselves: the actors switch throughout the show to play as many as five characters like knights, monks and nuns.

Bowen began acting at age nine and moved from Columbus, Ohio, to New York City at age 11. He went to a performing arts high school there and got a break doing Big: The Musical in 1996 and has worked steadily ever since. "I consider myself a triple threat: equal parts dancer, singer and actor."

He was first asked to be a swing for the 2003 Broadway revival of Gypsy. "I'd never done a swing job before. It took a lot of trial and error." He auditioned specifically to be a swing for Spamalot, knowing it would be a challenging job that would never get dull.

He got the job, as well as the assignment of dance caption for the show. (For this job, he's responsible for making sure everyone in the show sticks to the choreography.) At the start of the three-week rehearsal process, Bowen mainly took notes. "It's the swing's job to watch all of those guys and follow every thing that they do." He joined in when the ensemble sang together, and did dance moves off in the wings. He also worked outside of rehearsal time to hone his lines and singing parts.

During the show's run, Bowen and the three other swings show up at the same time as the other actors, even if they're not expected to go on — someone could become unwell at the last minute or get injured during the show. Bowen can go several nights without acting onstage, but he can also play as many as four different roles in one week. "We swings are never sitting on the sidelines for long."

That's partly because most of the ensemble actors act as understudies for the lead roles. One night on the tour, a lead actor was out, an ensemble player was on holiday and another took ill. With just two male swing actors, the cast had a major problem. One of the female swings took one of the roles — the one that didn't involve lifting anyone during dance numbers — and the show went on.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Swing actor

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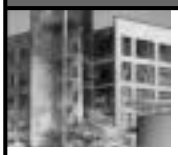

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The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology received a $3-million investment from the Finning and the Caterpillar Foundation in the school's heavy equipment programs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

How to get your boss to say 'yes'

AMANDA TRUSCOTT
for Metro Canada

Employees who want better work-life balance and employers who want to boost productivity are becoming more and more interested in negotiating flexible work arrangements, career experts say.

A return from maternity leave, the need to care for an elderly parent, or an interest in going back to school are all reasons people might want to negotiate a less rigid schedule, according to Randall Craig, author of the career-planning book Personal Balance Sheet.

Pat Katepoo, founder of WorkOptions.com, says it's been proven that when employees have a sense of control over when and where they work, they are less stressed and more productive.

But, Craig cautions, not all managers realize it can be in their best interest to be flexible.

"Probably the biggest thing people do wrong is that they assume that the company's going to jump at their proposal, and they forget that the company is employing them to actually do something, to do a very specific task or group of tasks," Craig says.

"And the answer for many managers is often a quick no, because for managers, just like us as individuals, change is difficult, and change that requires more work is more difficult than change that requires none."

When you negotiate a less rigid work schedule with your boss, try to see it from his or her point of view.

The best way to get a manager to say 'Yes' is to approach the problem from his or her point of view, he says.

"The question they're asking is, who will do your work? And if you're able to partly answer that — partly it might be you reshuffling and partly it might be you finding opportunities for others to grow into your role — that makes it a lot easier."

Another big mistake people often make, he says, is expecting managers to agree out of pity. "It has nothing to do with their empathy or their lack of it. It's — and this is in the best case — it's always a question of business," he says.

Katepoo lists better productivity, more creativity, higher rates of retention, and fewer absences as business benefits to giving employees more control over their schedules.

If refusing a new arrangement means losing an employee altogether, Craig says managers will often agree, because finding and training new people can get very expensive.

Craig recommends booking time to speak seriously with an employer about alternative work arrangements, and coming to the meeting prepared. He suggests finding examples and inquiring about said examples to see if you may qualify as well.

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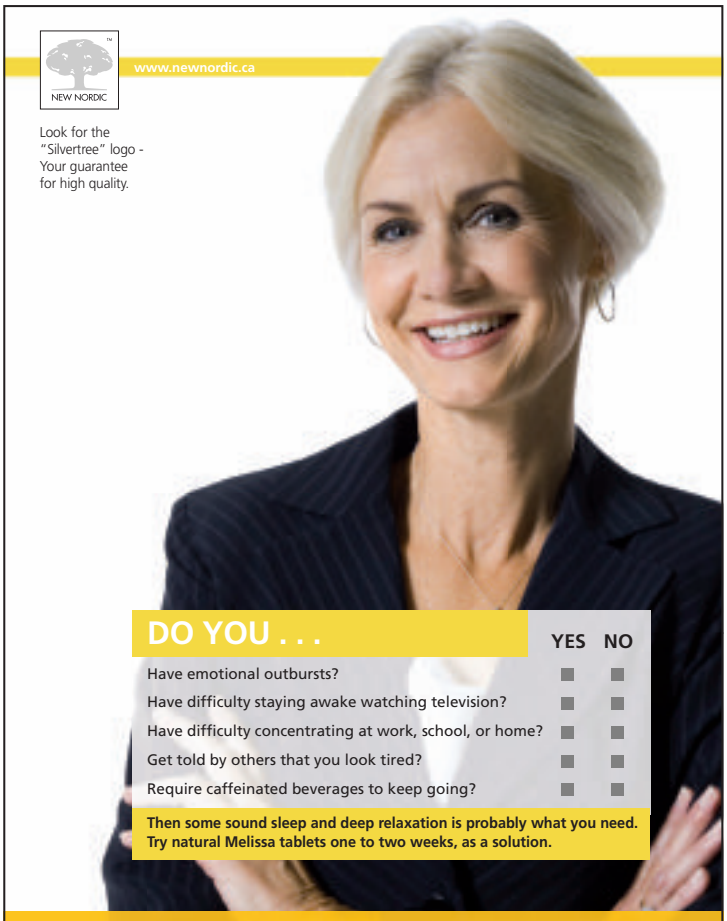
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Many of us know the anxiety of not being able to sleep. You turn and turn, while your thoughts keep you awake, and the stress starts to build, as you don't fall a sleep again. Ilene knew this feeling all too well and decided to try the new Melissa tablets.

Ilene had problems falling asleep and would usually wake up several times a night. "It was really frustrating lying in bed unable to sleep. Thoughts churn in your head and small problems seem enormous. And the next day I really had problems concentrating or getting anything done, simply because I was so tired."

Tried the new Melissa tablets

"As my sleep problem seemed to get worse with time, I looked into what could help. I read about Lemon Balm and how it can make you relax and sleep better. I went to my local health food store to get advice and they recommended a new Scandinavian product, called Melissa, which is a natural formula of extracts – among these Lemon balm and Chamomile."

Amazing to wake up after a sound night of sleep

"Now I have used Melissa for a week and it works wonderfully. I feel fantastic. I take the tablets one hour before bedtime, and feel the relaxation after only 30 minutes. Falling asleep feels natural and I find my sleep is much deeper than before. It's an amazing feeling to wake up after a long night of sound sleep!"

WAKE UP REFRESHED AND RESTED!

Melissa, from Scandinavian manufacturer New Nordic, is a new natural remedy for stress and sleep disorders. It's based on lemon balm, chamomile, l-theanine, magnesium and b-vitamins, which in studies have shown to increase deep relaxation, induce sleep and help obtain an undisturbed night of sleep. Melissa can be taken during the day, one tablet per main meal, for reduction of stress, or 2-3 tablets at once at night, to induce sleep.

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Manitoba business school to expand
University of Manitoba officials announced plans to expand the Asper School of Business. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Career Finder

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Roger Lajoie is a self-described "utility guy," and "full-time freelancer," in the sports journalism field.

Sports, full time

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

"My vocation is my vacation."
Roger Lajoie

Roger Lajoie can't seem to stick to just one job because he loves doing them all.

The 50-year-old broadcaster who has lent his voice to Toronto's sports radio station The Fan 590 for 16 years also reports for news agency Reuters, teaches at the College of Sports Media, runs his own business and announces for sports teams like the Oshawa Generals, the St. Michael's Majors and the Maple Leafs Baseball Club.

A self-proclaimed "utility guy" who has worked, simultaneously, almost as many jobs as he has fingers on his hands, Lajoie is a guy who lives for variety in his life.

"I'm a full-time freelancer, for lack of a better word. The freedom and the variety is so much fun. I think variety keeps you fresh," Lajoie said.

The regimen of different jobs keeps Lajoie spry and energetic and with a self-penned hockey book coming out soon as well, Lajoie is perhaps better described as a modern-day Renaissance man.

"I'm 50 but I've still got a lot of energy. My vocation is my vacation and I thank my lucks stars for that," Lajoie said.

As a journalism grad from the Ryerson Polytechnic Institute (now called Ryerson University), Lajoie worked in newspapers for 10 years before a program director liked his colour commentary on the Oshawa Generals and offered him his first radio job at The Fan 590. Lajoie got into the big-league of radio without having to suffer through the minors, something for which he feels extremely lucky.

"The Fan has been enormous for me — they took a chance on me and I'll be forever thankful," he said.

Lajoie has done commentary for various teams for upwards of 30 years and doesn't see himself giving that up any time soon. While the early days of job-hopping may have been more about survival, these days Lajoie feels blessed to do what he does. In fact, he has started cutting back recently on work gigs to make space for some regular time off.

In the studio, Lajoie is animated and jovial as he debates the popularity of soccer with listeners and sets up the news before signing off for the day. Watching his eyes light up on-air as he talks about hockey and seeing him joke with his producer after a show makes it obvious he is passionate about his work.

"You find what you want to do in life, you go do it and the rest of it will look after itself. Don't be afraid and have courage in your abilities. When you love what you do, it's easy to work," he said.

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EDITORS: STEPHANIE BOMBA, stephanie.bomba@metronews.ca & JIM REYNO, jim.reyno@metronews.ca

Celeb highs and lows at TIFF '08

TIFF WRAP The Canadian Press writers who covered TIFF pick some of the highs and lows among the celebrities at the festival:

MOST PERSONABLE STARS

Mark Ruffalo, Matt Damon, Ricky Gervais, Alicia Keys, Bruce McDonald, Paul Gross, Julianne Moore and Evangeline Lilly all make the list for being affable and generous with the media. Gervais giggled throughout his interview, and McDonald offered to chat later when cut short by a publicist.

GRUMPIEST STARS

Keira Knightley makes this category for the second year in a row after snippy comments during interviews for The Duchess. Philip Seymour Hoffman, just roused from a nap (according to a publicist), was curt at the start of an interview for Synecdoche, New York, but softened up after lighting up a smoke.

MOST HIRSUTE

Adrien Brody wins for the thick beard he claims was grown "for life" and not for a movie.

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nice guy Mark Ruffalo with the hirsute Adrien Brody.

'The year of the actor'

TIFF '08 will be remembered for many outstanding performances

After 10 days and more than 300 movies, the lights went up on the Toronto International Film Festival on the weekend, with event director Piers Handling remarking that the 2008 edition was characterized by some remarkable onscreen turns.

"I think that it was, perhaps, the year of the performer, of the actor," he said in an interview after the festival awards brunch.

"I saw so many extremely well-acted films where the performances ... they were the things you noticed the most."

Many critics who attended the annual cinematic marathon seemed to agree.

Highly-praised portrayals included Anne Hathaway as a recovering drug addict in Jonathan Demme's Rachel Getting Married, Mickey Rourke as an aging grappler in Darren Aronofsky's The Wrestler and Kristin Scott Thomas as a former inmate getting to know her sister again in the French-language drama I've Loved You So Long.

As usual, there were also some titles that picked up strong word-of-mouth buzz during the fest.

Among them was Slumdog Millionaire, a rollicking adventure tale from Trainspotting director Danny Boyle that received the $15,000 **Cadillac People's Choice Award** on Saturday.

Other prizes handed out included the $15,000 Citytv award for best Canadian first feature film, given to Marie-Helene Cousineau and Madeline Piujuq Ivalu for Before Tomorrow, about an Inuit grandmother and child abandoned on a desolate island.

The $30,000 **Citytv Award** for best Canadian feature film, meanwhile, went to Rodrigue Jean for Lost Song, about a woman who plunges into depression after moving with her husband and newborn baby to a remote area north of Montreal.

And the $10,000 **Diesel Discovery Award** went to British director Steve McQueen for Hunger, a disturbing portrait of the Maze prison outside Belfast during Bobby Sands' 1981 hunger strike.

Last year's fest, which featured eventual Oscar nominees No Country For Old Men, Atonement and Juno, was a tough act to follow. The lack of such titles this year caused some critics to grumble early on that the 2008 event wasn't up to snuff.

But New York Times film critic A.O. Scott questions that assessment.

"I always find those judgments a little bit suspect," he said in a telephone interview after returning to New York from the festival.

"Toronto, it's such a huge festival ... I don't know how anyone really comes to a comprehensive judgment of the whole thing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actress Emmanuelle Chriqui arrives for the film The Lucky Ones during the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 10.

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Best short film prize

The award for Best Canadian Short Film at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival went to Chris Chong Chan Fui's Block B. METRO TORONTO

Sandra Oh wows 'em at the Swarovski Blindness party.

Matt Damon looking sharp at the One X One gala.

ENZA SUPERMODEL PHOTOS

Joe Dinicol and Caroline Dhavernas arrive for Passchendaele.

Plenty of starry nights at TIFF

TIFF after **dark**

enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

A professional news photographer once told me that when photographing celebrities, "Just shoot, and ask questions later."

With celebrities running rampant all over Toronto these past 10 days for the film festival, truer words were never spoken. Thank goodness for a quick trigger finger.

This year's festival certainly had its fair share of celebrity excitement and mayhem.

Paparazzi princess **Paris Hilton** not only had photographers shooting faster than the speed of light, but jumping all over each other like a pack of wild monkeys at her gala screening of Paris, Not France at the Ryerson Theatre. It's rumoured that more photographers showed up for her red carpet than any other celeb — next to **Brad Pitt**.

Paris Hilton didn't do any red-carpet interviews at the premiere of Paris, Not France.

However, it was the stunned look on the faces of the 30 or so gathered television and radio reporters, sprawled alongside the red carpet, waiting for an interview that said it all. She walked past them without doing a single interview. Ouch!

Leaving a much better impression were Canadian actor **Sandra Oh** and Lethal Weapon granddaddy **Danny Glover** at the Swarovski pre-screening party for the film Blindness. Leave it to Glover to work the autograph-seeking crowd outside.

Not only did he shake a few hands, he shocked a few women with a kiss. Meanwhile inside, Oh dazzled invited guests with personal photo-ops and conversation. That's a true star.

The kicker, though, was at the Passchendaele pre-screening gala reception at Roy Thomson Hall. After arriving early and waiting to score a photo of the cast — **Paul Gross**, **Gil Bellows**, **Joe Dinicol** and **Caroline Dhavernas** — I was told there was no time for a photo-op. Then why was I invited? Note to film publicist: Photo ops are a good thing.

Thank you TIFF Group for a great festival season. I love film festival time!

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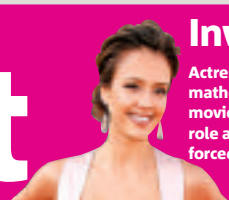
Crawford new face of Versace
Chace Crawford has reportedly been lined up to be the new face of Versace. The Gossip Girl star is said to be close to signing a deal to replace Grey's Anatomy actor Patrick Dempsey as the face of the fashion label. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment



Invisible Alba
Actress Jessica Alba is to play a mathematics genius in a new movie, Invisible. Alba won the role after Ugly Betty commitments forced America Ferrera to pull out.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Twist tops Billboard list

Chubby Checker single named most popular on All-Time Hot 100 chart

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

It's a favourite pastime for music junkies everywhere: debating the best recordings of all time. Well, you can stop the arguing because Billboard has the answer — Chubby Checker's version of The Twist.

While it might surprise some that a Beatles tune didn't top Billboard's All-Time Hot 100 chart, which the publication's editors compiled in honour of the mag's 50th anniversary, The Twist was a powerhouse of a song when it was released in 1960.

"It was on the charts for 39 weeks," says Geoff Mayfield, Billboard's director of charts. "And it was the only song to hit No. 1 twice — in 60 and 61."

The Beatles did have one tune in the top 10 — Hey Jude ranked No. 8, while Santana's Smooth, Bobby Darin's Mack The Knife, LeAnn Rimes' How Do I Live and Los Del Rio's Macarena rounded out the top 5.

Mayfield says the Beatles could have charted higher, except for one problem — they were always competing against themselves. "During one week in 1964 they owned every title in the top five," says the Billboard chart guru. "Fewer songs went No. 1 than people realize."

However, the band did top Billboard's All-Time Top Artists chart, with Madonna, Elton John, Elvis Presley and Stevie Wonder trailing closely behind. Topping this list was easy for the Fab Four, they had 20 No. 1 songs in their career and 71 titles landed on the Billboard Hot 100.

The Twist, a single Chubby Checker, right, released in 1960, has been named the biggest chart hit of all time by Billboard magazine. GETTY IMAGES

But Elvis could have been No. 1, if only the Hot 100 was around eight years earlier. "There's certainly a possibility that he would have topped the All-Time Artists chart," says Mayfield. "He had 108 singles on the Hot 100, but ten of his No. 1 hits launched before our chart did."

To compile the All-Time Hot 100 list, Billboard's staff took a look at all the singles that made the charts in the last 50 years, and assigned weightings based on era, how long a song charted for and what positions it held.

"It was on the charts for 39 weeks. And it was the only song to hit No. 1 twice — in 60 and 61." Billboard's Geoff Mayfield

So what can musicphiles learn from this list? "It's a fun snapshot of the songs that succeeded in their era, while the artists list is a view of whose popularity has endured. In order to rank high on the charts you had to more than just a flash in the pan."

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Burn After Reading:** $19.4 million US
2. **The Family That Preys:** $18 million
3. **Righteous Kill:** $16.5 million
4. **The Women:** $10.1 million
5. **The House Bunny:** $4.3 million
6. **Tropic Thunder :** $4.2 million
7. **The Dark Knight:** $4 million
8. **Bangkok Dangerous:** $2.4 million
9. **Traitor:** $2.1 million
10. **Death Race:** $2 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snoop granted Australian visa

MUSIC Rapper Snoop Dogg has been granted a visa to enter Australia for a concert tour, the country announced Friday after finishing a character assessment of the entertainer. Officials had earlier expressed concern about Snoop Dogg's criminal record but took into account the fact that he had travelled to Australia three times without incident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nixon, Conway nab Creative Arts Emmys

Cynthia Nixon, who gained fame and an Emmy with Sex and the City, added a second trophy Saturday for a guest role on Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

Nixon was honored at the Creative Arts Primetime Emmys, which recognize technical and other achievements for the 2007-08 season and preceded next weekend's main ceremony.

Nixon

Other acting honors went to Glynn Turman, named best guest actor in a drama for In Treatment; Kathryn Joosten, best guest actress in a comedy for Desperate Housewives; and Tim Conway, best guest actor in a comedy for 30 Rock.

The creative arts Emmys will be shown as a special next Saturday on E! Entertainment, followed Sunday by ABC's live broadcast of the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Among networks, HBO received a leading 16 awards, followed by ABC and PBS with 9 each. CBS earned eight awards and NBC six.

HBO's miniseries John Adams was Saturday's top winner with eight awards, including best costumes for a miniseries, movie or special. AMC's Mad Men, the top series nominee, took home four awards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lost actor won't be driving soon

IN COURT Actor Daniel Dae Kim, who plays Jin-Soo Kwon in TV's Lost, has been banned from the roads for six months after being convicted of drunk driving, BBC News Online reports.

The 40-year-old did not challenge the charges he faced after his arrest in Honolulu, where he was spotted driving erratically last October.

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Winslet as Wing?

Actress Kate Winslet has emerged as the favourite to play married poet Isadora Wing in a new movie adaptation of Erica Jong's controversial novel Fear Of Flying. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

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Road Home a rich, visual journey

The Road Home

Author: Rose Tremain
Publisher: Vintage Books
Price: $21.95 (Paperback)

Far from his native Eastern Europe, 42-year-old unemployed migrant Lev is on his way to England in pursuit of work. Leaving his mother and five-year-old daughter behind, Lev expresses how he still hasn't quite grown up, while continuing his struggle to reconcile the death of his wife by leukemia. Winner of the 2008 Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, The Road Home describes Lev's visual journey in rich detail as he is introduced to a new and very alternative life than he is used to in a vogue and vicious London.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

BookPicks

Coventry

Author: Helen Humphreys
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.
Price: $24.95 (Hardcover)

In the title British town, Harriet Marsh is spending one night atop a cathedral as a fire-watcher. In 1940's Britain, that means staking out the skies for the inevitable German offensive that will shake Coventry to its core. In story that balances hope and tragedy with Harriet's memories of love and loss, Humphreys evokes strong imagery while maintaining an involving narrative.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

The Year of Eating Dangerously

Author: Tom Parker Bowles
Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin
Price: $16.95 (Paperback)

In a veritable gastronomical atlas, British food critic Tom Parker Bowles (Camilla's son) takes readers on a world journey lead by the writer's adventurous palate. Travelling from his native England through nations in Europe, North America and Asia, Parker Bowles introduces the origins and discovery of non-traditional dishes and delicacies in a work that is as much food criticism as it is equal parts travelogue, history and geography. Parker Bowles not only sinks his teeth into local fare, but into the lives and lessons of farmers and friends.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

Queen in Ukraine for charity show

MUSIC Queen sang to tens of thousands of Ukrainians in a charity concert meant to raise money and AIDS awareness in this ex-Soviet republic. Cheering fans packed the central square Friday in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, to listen to the legendary British rock band, whose lead vocalist Freddie Mercury died of an AIDS-related illness in 1991. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges dropped for Kelis incident

COURTS A judge in Miami has dismissed all charges against singer Kelis stemming from a 2007 incident in which she was accused of disrupting a police operation. She was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest without violence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Shawn a father figure

Wallace Shawn (The Princess Bride, Clueless) is joining Gossip Girl for a multi-episode arc as Cyrus, father to Serena's new artsy boyfriend Aaron (John Patrick Amedori). EW.COM

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New fall TV shows stumble

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FALLING FAST: The fall TV season has stumbled out of the gate with a lot of not particularly good news about shows that were supposed to take over our lives like food poisoning after a frat house cookout.

Weeks of relentless publicity carried out in spite of a lockout that prevented critics from previewing the debut episode didn't end up doing the 90210 revival any favours, as the CW show lost almost 30 per cent of its viewers by its second week on the air, hinting that a lot of new shows are likely to lose traction from viewers more curious than committed.

Poor omen No. 2 is the disappointing turnout for J. J. Abrams' Fringe, which only attracted 9.1 million viewers for its premiere on Fox. "Only" 9.1 million is, of course, a number that has to be put through the executive TV business translator — shows survive on cable for years with a fraction of those numbers, after all — and the indispensable Lisa de Moraes of the Washington Post broke down the Fringe numbers in a column last week.

Fox turned that frown upside down by calling it the most watched network drama premiere in two years, but de Moraes noted the qualifier — that this was only true "excluding premieres following sports and American Idol."

Using Fox's fine-tuned logic, that would make Fringe's debut the biggest single TV program audience ever in a month starting with an S, in a week with a hurricane alert, on a night where the governor of Alaska is getting more news coverage than said hurricane, and in the house where the show's set decorator lives.

By comparison, de Moraes points out, Fringe's first night did worse than the 2006 debut of Standoff,

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Eliza Dushku

the hostage-negotiators-in-love police drama that limped to the end of its 18-episode run but remains unmemorialized on DVD.

And since Standoff hit the air two years and four days before Fringe, the latter show can claim its title with an untroubled conscience.

Then de Moraes gets really mean, pointing out that Lost, Abrams' big hit, pulled in 19 million viewers on bottom-ranked ABC four years ago, not No. 1 Fox, adding another four million viewers by its second week.

Fringe might top 10 million viewers with its second episode this week, but it would only manage this prodigious feat after lukewarm-to-hostile reviews and by flaunting the "go ahead, impress me" impatience of viewers.

Fox might have more bad news coming, compliments from another TV creator whose reputation outstrips his track record, with the news that Joss Whedon has shut down production on his new series Dollhouse for two weeks.

A TV Week story reported that Fox was concerned with how unsympathetic the character played by the show's lead, Eliza Dushku, was coming off in already-complete episodes.

Whedon has already shifted the show's pilot to episode 2 and rewrote the premiere; these failures of nerve are being excused as business as usual, but to viewers whose patience is diminishing as their viewing options are increasing, this might mean the fall season is setting itself up for a big, sloppy wet faceplant.

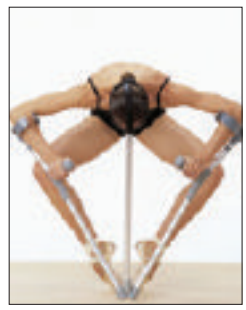
Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/15/08	265	353	2	TVO	Child Brilliant	Your Voice (N)	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Through These Eyes (N)		Chinese School (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (Part 2 of 2)		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	*Flood* (2007, Drama) Robert Carlyle, Tom Courtenay.				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		*Tomorrow Never Dies* ★★★ (1997, Action) Pierce Brosnan.				Role		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	*Batman Begins* ★★★ (2005, Action) Christian Bale, Liam Neeson.						News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Les Gens de...	Canadian Geographic		*Tango* ★★★ (1998, Drame) Miguel Angel Solá, Mia Maestro.				Folie-aventure
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	Friends	Solo Flight
	213	326	15	SUN	Becker	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		Dateline NBC (N)		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Deal or No Deal (N)		America's Toughest Jobs (N)		Dateline NBC (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*Batman Begins* ★★★ (2005, Action)			News Spec	*Batman Begins* (2005)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		America's Toughest Jobs (N)		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Timeless: National Parks		Visions of Israel			History Detectives (N)	
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Oil: Apocalypse Now?		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		On the Money		Apprentice Byd		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at New York Yankees. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Monday Night Countdown (HDTV) (Live)			NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys. (HDTV) (Live)					
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	How Not to Die		Mantracker (N)		Departures "Thailand"		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		101 Cars-Drive	101 Cars-Drive	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	The Next Star		Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	House	Love It or List It (N)		Real Est	Kim	Save Us-House
	570	580	29	MM	Legally Blonde		MuchTopTens		MuchNews	The NewMusic	Legally Blonde		MuchVibe
	615	520	31	A&E	Intervention "Brad"		Intervention "Derek"		Intervention "Kristen" (N)		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed (Part 2 of 2)		Where You At	Revival	Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	Cheerleader Nation		Karaoke Star		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39	SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		International Dancesport: Latin		Body-Goldberg Variation		Death and The Maiden		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	End of Leash	Spoiled Rotten	Wedding SOS	Party Mamas	Project Runway		End of Leash
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Smoked"		Battle 360		Tank Overhaul		NCIS "Smoked"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	The Cho Show	Simple Life	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Design U	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Location, Location, Location		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Rules of Engagement* ★★ (2000, Drama) Tommy Lee Jones.					Frasier	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Three Can Play That Game* (2008, Romance-Comedy)				Somebodies	Somebodies	*Three Play*
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "White Rabbit"		Star Trek "Charlie X"		Battlestar Galactica		Eureka (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	The Hills	After	Canada's Next Top Model		Exiled	The Hills	The Hills	After	Paris Casting
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
	603	561	56	FOOD	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Good Eats	Perfection	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Prime Minister	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		Scared Sacred		Mysterious Wy
	621	527	63	STR	Ellen Degeneres Show		TMZ (N)	eTalk	Katie & Peter: Next Chapter		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Bucket-Dinos	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Bloopers	Les Auditions	Juste pour rire (N)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	Élections	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	Judging Amy		Voices in Time	Ministers	Victoria's Empire		Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy
	300	601	301	M1	(6:25) *Sharkwater*		Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	Californication	Brotherhood		Atlantis
	305	612	306	PIX	(6) *The Godfather* ★★★★ (1972, Drama), Al Pacino				*The Godfather, Part II* ★★★★ (1974, Drama) Al Pacino, Robert Duvall.				

critics' corner

Body Remix - Goldberg Variations

The theme is freedom, and the method is props — lots of them. In this new special, choreographer Marie Chouinard puts 10 dancers through a variety of moves making use of crutches, harnesses, prostheses, ropes and other devices in addition to their own bodies. As you might have guessed from the title, the musical accompaniment is Johann Sebastian Bach's "Goldberg Variations." 9 PM on BVO



Eureka

Here, lizard, lizard ... . In this new episode, Jack and Allison (Colin Ferguson, Salli Richardson-Whitfield) enter a sealed biosphere owned by Global Dynamics when one of its long-term residents goes missing. He isn't dead — just the victim of some weird DNA mutation that is causing him and everyone else living there to turn reptilian. They need to find the culprit — and the cure — before the same fate befalls them in "What About Bob." 10 PM on SPC

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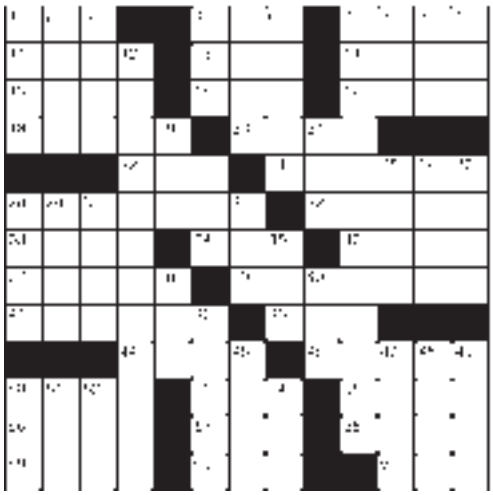
Shelton to play House
House has admitted Samantha Shelton (Monarch Cove) to play a fitness instructor who comes down with a stupefying illness in a November episode. EW.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

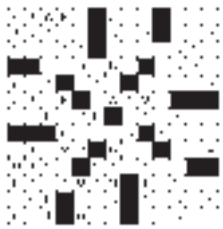
1 Amorphous mass
2 Hold the scepter
3 "Yeah, right!"
4 Lamb's mommy
5 Dalai —
6 Still-life subject, often
7 Corporate barrier of a sort
8 Intend
9 Rage
10 Light brown
12 Rose to address the group
19 Obtain
21 Twosome
23 Jewel
25 Gulf War missile
26 Entice
27 Piccadilly statue
28 Jacket
29 Call for silence
30 Rue the run
31 Massage
35 Solidify
38 Pigs' digs
40 Trinity member
42 Slow mover
45 MRI forerunner
47 Toe woe
48 Employ
49 Authentic
50 Burst
51 Raw rocks
52 Meadow
54 Away from WSW

Find today's answer and play more games online at metronews.ca

Crossword across

1 Lingerie item
4 Will Ferrell Christmas movie
7 Rate of walking
11 Craving
13 Civil —
14 Old Italian money
15 Hodgepodge
16 Ostrich's cousin
17 Prayer conclusion
18 Confuse
20 Lends a hand
22 St. Bernard's burden
24 Rough struggle
28 Gab
32 Happen
33 "That hurts!"
34 Beer holder
36 14-Across' replacement
37 Bonfire residue
39 Other than
41 Robberies
43 Chatroom chuckling
44 Bobcat
46 Dark hours
50 Horseback pastime
53 Exist
55 Film —
56 Sandwich cookie
57 Author Fleming
58 Mentor
59 Bosc or Bartlett
60 Old soap ingredient
61 Ball prop

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A doubtful contender wins a competition. Express your amusement while you play. You'll make a discovery while searching a closet.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An outburst will cause distress. An easily offended person is too money conscious. You should comply with all reasonable requests.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It's okay to admit that you were wrong. Don't expect a reply from a manager. Avoid stimulants because your tolerance level has changed.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll feel affection for somebody in crisis. Offer the gift of your devoted heart. A wonderful stroke of luck solves an ugly problem.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Get out and socialize with those who know your secrets. Freaky laughter will concern you. A bimbo will save the day.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Ask a faker to avoid telling all about an illness. Elation erupts when someone is open to understanding. Issues can be understood with clarity.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's socializing in store for a visitor. Partners are unexpectedly nurturing after hearing happy news. It's a peak period for your imagination.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
A disturbance provokes disappointment. Nostalgia develops for the good old days. Make plans to be less disciplined for a while.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Being confident will make a difference. A guilty person made a sneaky mistake. Today's gossip frenzy is about a couple.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Everything seems to come with little effort. Grant someone's wish just because you can. A message comes from a puzzling person.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone touches your heart with their devotion. Shocking details are found in ordinary events. Concentrate your efforts on a friendly guy.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Your privileges will be acknowledged. Go through the day with your mind focussed on co-operation. Everyone decides to compromise.

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Sudoku

2			5		8			
1	6						2	8
	4			1		5		
	5		6	4				9
		4				3		
9				7	2		5	
		6		2			7	
8	1						9	3
			8		4			2

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

5	8	9	3	2	4	6	7	1
2	6	4	7	1	5	3	8	9
1	3	7	6	9	8	5	4	2
8	4	3	5	7	2	9	1	6
6	9	2	8	4	1	7	5	3
7	1	5	9	6	3	4	2	8
3	2	1	4	5	6	8	9	7
9	5	8	1	3	7	2	6	4
4	7	6	2	8	9	1	3	5

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min . . . . . Genius
13-17 min. . . . . Scholar
17-21 min . . . . . Smart
21-25 min . . . . . Not bad
25+ min . . . . Keep practising

Today's answer and play more games at metronews.ca

Toronto weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Partly sunny. 18°	Clear. 8°	Mainly sunny. 18°/ 10°	Mainly sunny. 21°/ 10°	Partly cloudy. 22°/ 13°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature Normals
High: 21°
Low: 9.9°

Records
High: 32.5°/1991
Low: 0°/1964

Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.
Sunset: 7:27 p.m.
Moonset: 7:12 a.m.
Moonrise: 7:22 p.m.

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SNOW SQUALL WARNING 4 ORLEANS. 15CM TO 20CM OF SNOW EXPECTED 4 OTTAWA.

Second baby

The Biggest Loser alumni Matt and Suzy Hoover welcomed their second boy on Thursday. Jax Paul, who was born in Seattle, joins older brother Rex Timothy. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Anderson to Palin: 'Suck it'

POLITICS Don't expect former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson to support Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin, the New York Daily News reports.

Anderson, who was in Toronto for a speech railing against the abuse of animals in Hollywood, let loose on the Alaska governor. When Anderson was asked if she saw a recent Newsweek article that included a picture of a bear hide in Palin's office, Anderson took aim at Palin.

"I can't stand her," Anderson told E! News Weekend Canada. "She can suck it!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Lohan denies she's marrying Ronson

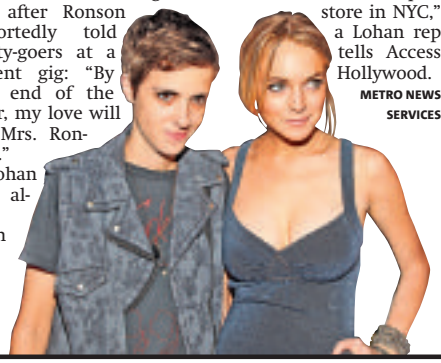
RELATIONSHIPS Lindsay Lohan has denied reports she is set to wed rumoured girlfriend Samantha Ronson, imdb.com reports.

The actress was allegedly planning to walk down the aisle with the Los Angeles DJ, after Ronson reportedly told party-goers at a recent gig: "By the end of the year, my love will be Mrs. Ronson."

Lohan was also seen sporting a diamond on her left ring finger, fuelling speculation about impending nuptials.

"They (reporters) lie. She bought it (the ring) herself. It's an antique ring that she found at an antiques store in NYC," a Lohan rep tells Access Hollywood.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Richie reacts unkindly to fan's photo: Report

OUTBURST Nicole Richie clashed with a fan outside a New York nightclub, according reports.

The socialite allegedly became angry when a tourist attempted to take her picture as she left an after-party at Country Club, hosted by Mark and Samantha Ronson's fashion designer sister Charlotte as part of New York Fashion Week, imdb.com reports.

New York Post gossip column PageSix reports that Richie took offence and allegedly broke the girl's camera. "A young tourist was trying to take her photo," a source tells PageSix. Richie reportedly shouted, 'I'm not an animal' then jumped over the velvet rope, ripped the camera out of the girl's hand, and smashed it to the ground."

A representative for Richie could not be reached.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

DeGeneres scolds Seacrest, tells him to settle down

PEOPLE Newly-wed Ellen DeGeneres has warned Ryan Seacrest to find a girlfriend soon before he gets too old to settle down, imdb.com reports.

DeGeneres wed her girlfriend Portia De Rossi last month, and now the talkshow host is urging the 33-year-old American Idol presenter to sort out his personal life before it is too late.

Speaking on her Ellen DeGeneres show, she says, "You're going to wait too long and get in a rut being single. You have to let go and be with someone. You're a great guy. You're funny, you're smart. You're getting old."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Fox may prefer her male friends

PEOPLE Megan Fox is just like one of the boys, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress admits she hasn't got any female friends in the industry and prefers hanging out with her male friends.

"I only had one girlfriend when I was growing up. Most of my friends were boys.

"I was such a tomboy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

I'm no diva, Scarlett says

PEOPLE Scarlett Johansson has denied she is prone to "diva-like" behaviour, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 23-year-old actress has hit out at reports suggesting she is difficult to work with, claiming she doesn't let her success go to her head.

"I'm not (a diva). I live a very modest and private lifestyle. Things get crazy with the media, but am I demanding or travel with a huge entourage? No!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Butler's wild and crazy times

PEOPLE Gerard Butler was so wild in his youth he was convinced he would die young, imdb.com reports.

Butler gave up alcohol in his mid-20s because he would go off the rails when he was drunk. "I was totally wild," Butler tells British magazine Marie Claire. "I would headbutt walls, punch walls. I definitely had a suicide wish. I once woke up in Paris at 4 a.m., five miles from where I'd been at a party. I had gashes to my head, my face, my arms, and I had blood all over my clothes. To this day, I don't know what happened."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

At last, **Pam Anderson** has weighed in regarding the U.S. election. **Sarah Palin** "…can suck it," opined the Canadian-born actress. Nice to know that Anderson, with her beauty beginning to fade, has her incisive intelligence and Kennedy School of Government education to fall back on. The issue would appear to be the presence of a bearskin rug seen in Palin's office. Anderson, a longtime PETA activist, cannot abide cruelty to animals, and it's alleged that Palin forced the bear to watch Pammie's VIP television series before she shot it. Seems to me that the bear is dead, and unlike current Vice-President **Dick Cheney**, she didn't to shoot anyone in the face while hunting it, so full points for marksmanship. Anyway, with the opinions of actuarial math whiz **Good Matt Damon**, and the **Kentucky Colonel Hater** now accounted for, it looks like Hollywood is finally getting back to doing what they do best: unwittingly helping to elect Republicans to the Oval Office. I can only hope Anderson won't neglect comment on the federal election being waged in the country of her birth.

Pammie, **Stephen Harper**'s on Line 1. He's wearing leather pants, eating from a bucket of extra crispy, and he wants you to tell Canadians exactly what you think of him.

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Party time
Pop star Britney Spears threw her boys, Sean Preston and Jayden James, a joint truck-themed birthday party in Los Angeles on Saturday. Saturday was Jayden's actual 2nd birthday; Sean Preston turned three yesterday. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Celebrity Buzz

Are Olsen twins bad neighbours?

PEOPLE New Yorkers usually don't get too impressed by star sightings, but in the case of Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen's neighbours, they're downright disgruntled, intouchweekly.com reports. The twin actresses, who are renting a West 13th Street brownstone for $12,000 US a month, reportedly are "disruptive, intrusive and totally disrespectful." One neighbour told The New York Post's PageSix that the sisters are "two spoiled brats" who have "changed the character of the neighbourhood" with their big cars and numerous bodyguards. "You would think there was a government operation going on," fumed another resident. Neighbours are even less impressed because other bold-faced names like Sarah Jessica Parker, Liv Tyler and Gisele Bündchen live in the 'hood and "are good neighbours and blend in." But there's one saving grace: The situation is only temporary. "The good news is that it's only a rental," said the insider, "and we all hope it's not a long-standing one."

A rep for the Olsens told PageSix, "If there were significant issues, you'd think the neighbours would address Ashley or Mary-Kate directly, rather than calling the media."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Naomi says Brazilian surgery saved her life

HEALTH Naomi Campbell has spoken out about her recent operation in Brazil — insisting the surgery saved her life, imdb.com reports.

The supermodel recently revealed that she went into a hospital in South America earlier this year for the removal of two cysts, and doctors also managed to repair her damaged fallopian tubes, meaning she is now able to have children.

But Campbell insists that her condition would have been life-threatening if she hadn't had the operation right away. "I was in pain for all of last year and in February I collapsed on the floor of my house. My girlfriend in Brazil persuaded me to go and see her doctor," she says. "The Brazilian doctors took their tests and said, 'We've got to open you up, you've got two benign tumours, 9 cm each.' One had leaked and caused an infection. Had I stayed with them in there for a further three months, they said I would have been in danger of my life."

Campbell admits that the operation had a positive outcome — because it cured her infertility.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dunst, Long hooking up?

RELATIONSHIPS Since splitting with Drew Barrymore in July, Justin Long has been spending time with Kirsten Dunst — and it's more than just a rebound fling, intouchweekly.com reports.

It's reportedly getting so serious that Dunst is already buying gifts for him.

On Aug. 26, Dunst bought Long, 30, a Chrome Hearts sterling silver dog tag accented with diamonds at a West Hollywood boutique.

"This would look great on Justin," Kirsten was overheard telling a pal when she spotted the $1,150 US necklace. The insider says, "It was obvious she liked shopping for him!"

"Justin has been spending a lot of time at Kirsten's New York apartment," the insider reveals.

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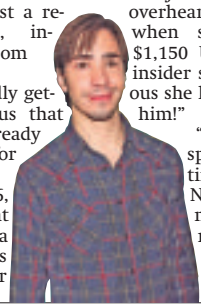

Cruise lauds his bond with adopted children

PARENTHOOD Tom Cruise says there is no difference between the way he treats his adopted and biological children, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor, who has a biological daughter Suri, 2, with wife Katie Holmes and two adopted children, 15-year-old Isabella and 13-year-old Connor, with ex-wife Nicole Kidman, insists he treats all his kids exactly the same.

"My adopted children are my own children," he said. "There is no separation in that for me whatsoever. There's no way there is any difference and anyone who has adopted would say the same. I've been up in the middle of the night changing diapers, there's no question in terms of me being the father, that bond couldn't be any stronger."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mills shoots down book rumour, Apprentice story

RUMOURS Sir Paul McCartney's ex-wife Heather Mills has shot down rumours she is writing a semi-autobiographical novel, insisting her focus is on mending her broken heart following the breakup of her marriage, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Mills was said to have been planning to write a novel about a model who marries a superstar.

"These book rumours are nonsense," she tells People.com. "I am trying to move on, spend time with my daughter and get on with my charitable work. It's been a terrible period for everyone."

Mills was also quick to deny tabloid reports she was recently dropped from the lineup of Donald Trump's hit reality TV show Celebrity Apprentice because she had demanded a place in the final round.

"These rumours are rubbish. Donald asked me to go on the show months ago and I was flattered, but I declined immediately because I have commitments to my daughter which wouldn't have allowed me three months to appear on the show," Mills adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Pitt is powerful

ACCOLADES Brad Pitt has been named the world's most powerful actor in the Guinness World Records 2009 book, BBC News Online reports.

His partner Angelina Jolie has won the title of most powerful actress toppling Pitt's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston.

The latest list of record-breaking achievements goes on sale Wednesday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Timberlake feeds marriage speculation

RUMOUR Once again, wedding bells are rumoured to be right around the corner for singer Justin Timberlake and actress Jessica Biel, MSNBC reports. But rather than denying the news, Timberlake is reportedly the one who started the buzz. According to OK! magazine, Timberlake dropped the nuptial hint to a group of friends at last week's Fashion Rocks concert.

"Justin said that he is 'this close to being married' and then pinched his fingers together to demonstrate," an eavesdropper revealed.

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